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## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

#### Austria wants gunmen for trial

The Austrian Government has demanded the extradition from Algeria of the six terrorists who took over the OPEC building in Vienna on Sunday, so that they can stand trial on charges of murder and kidnapping.

Nigerian Oil Minister Dr. Itoha Akobi said in London that he had signed his auto-

The Financial Times wishes its readers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

aph while on the flight to Niger. Most of the OPEC hostages have now left Algeria for their home countries.

Syrian sources believe that the Arab League Front for the liberation of Palestine was involved in the kidnapping, which is in line with their aim of ridding the region of Middle East talks. But the PFLP have denied responsibility. Back Page

#### U.S. diplomat hot in Greece

Richard Welch, assistant to a U.S. Ambassador in Athens, is shot dead outside his house in a masked gunmen. His name appeared on a list of alleged CIA agents working in Greece.

#### Angola 'puts arms at risk'

Henry Kissinger, U.S. Secretary of State, warned that the arms situation in Africa is likely to affect his visit to Moscow early next year for arms limitations talks. He claimed that the U.S. had no objection to a Marxist faction taking control of Angola, provided it was not backed by Soviet or Cuban troops. Page 4

#### My chief dies

India's Army Chief of Staff, Gen. General John Shaw, was hit by five people killed when a helicopter crashed while on Christmas visit to troops 50 miles south of Umtali.

#### og hits Italy

Ice and Milan airports were closed for the second day as thick fog and ice hit most of Northern Italy.

#### ix deported

India is deporting four British and two Canadian Jehovah's Witnesses for "encouraging divisive interests." But all five are 55-year-old or older of the banned Lumpuurch, is being released after years' detention.

#### ustoms probe

Seven Customs officers were arrested and then released on bail by police probing the sale of cut-price cigarettes and drink at the Bristol area. A warehouse at Bristol Airport was raided.

#### omposer killed

Vasant Dassi, one of India's most prolific composers of film music, was crushed to death in New Delhi last night after being struck by a truck while crossing a road. He was 50.

#### rieffly...

ree Irish-Americans accused of smuggling arms to the IRA in the U.S. gave themselves up in Philadelphia where they were held on \$25,000 sureties. Elizabeth Taylor left Switzerland, after being treated for back pains at a London hospital.

#### HIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated

RISERS	FALLS
Cash 91pc '80... 122 1/2	Abecorn Invests... 275 - 10
By (L) '80... 120 1/2	Barlow Rand... 280 - 3
oken Hill Prop... 693 + 10	GEI Intnl... 261 - 4
oydes... 130 + 12	GKN... 253 - 5
stlers... 130 + 21	Intnl. Paint... 243 - 3
Shab Property... 571 + 21	Rothschild... 238 - 4
Home... 230 + 4	Niebo Gorman... 208 - 3
Portland Estates... 230 + 4	Simon Eng... 21 - 5
y's Wharf... 286 + 7	Slater Walker... 143 - 5
and Shanghai... 286 + 7	De Beers Dfd... 298 - 4
rdine Matheson... 374 + 6	Hampton Areas... 177 - 13
rnings (A.V.)... 136 + 4	Loraine... 151 - 11
ad Seas... 171 + 3	De Beers... 665 - 25
EPIC... 171 + 3	
lins Lamp... 645 + 10	
alins... 284 + 6	
Stured Jersey... 25 + 2	
avis and Arnold... 114 + 15	

### BUSINESS

#### Gold and gold mines move lower

GOLD fell \$14 to close at \$1044 underlining a general lack of buying interest. It was felt that Monday's rise of \$34, after news that France is to buy IMF gold, may have been overdone.

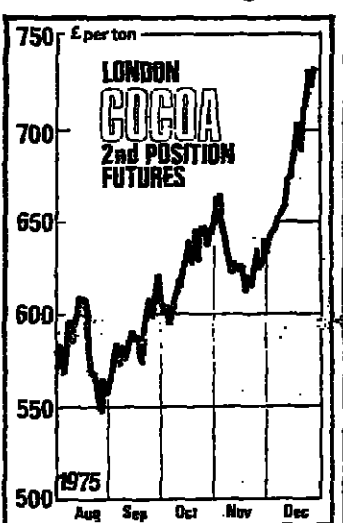
EQUITIES were quiet, fluctuating within very narrow limits. The FT 30-Share Index closed 0.9 lower at 362.8. Gold shares reflected Cape and U.S. selling—the Gold Mines Index fell 10.8 to 231.9, erasing most of the previous day's jump of 16.6.

GILTS continued firm. Gains ranged to 1. The Government Securities Index put on 0.14 to 59.36, a rise of 0.95 over the past six trading days.

STERLING showed little change. Its weighted depreciation remained unaltered at 30.2 per cent. against the dollar it gained 5 points to \$2.0220. The dollar's weighted fall widened to 1.91 (1.80) per cent.

WALL STREET was up 4.73 at 843.36 near the close.

LONDON COCOA futures price for the March (second) position closed £3.25 higher at a



1975 peak of £730.5 a tonne, after touching £735.5 at one stage. Page 13

#### EEC defers lorry drivers' 8-hour rule

BRITAIN is to be allowed to defer for six months the introduction of the EEC regulations covering lorry drivers' hours, which would have cut the drivers' day from ten to eight hours. Back Page

INITIAL LIST of ten Board members for the British National Oil Corporation does not contain anyone with direct oil industry management experience, which could lead to industrial and political friction. Back Page

REINSTATEMENT of the "Ferrybridge Six" would lead to industrial strife at the plant, the industrial tribunal was told by counsel for the CEB at its final session. Judgment is unlikely to be given before January 13. Page 6

NINE WEEK STRIKE by building workers at the Alcoa aluminium complex near Swansea has ended. Page 6

FIRST HALF pre-tax profits of Hollis Bros. and ESA reached £687,000. Although £200,000 lower than the previous half, they show a marked recovery from last year's second half loss of £259,000. Page 10

ICI is expected to buy the liquid carbon dioxide interests of Air Products for under £1m. Page 6

CONZINC ROTINTO of Australia is considering making a bid for IOL Petroleum because it feels unable to support an IOL share issue to raise funds for oil exploration. Mining News, Page 11

## New pay deal ends steel dispute at Llanwern

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

A major brake on the British Steel Corporation's modernisation plans was removed last night when one of the industry's longest-running labour disputes was settled with a pay deal for blastfurnacemen employed on a new £27m. furnace at Llanwern, in South Wales.

The furnace is the largest in Britain and will start producing iron in six weeks' time, allowing the Llanwern steelworks to increase its output of high-quality steel sheet, which has recently been in short supply to the motor industry and elsewhere.

The settlement, reached as a result of a compromise on pay rates between the Corporation and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, removes a nagging row which could have dogged talks starting on the future of the industry, with a fear among union leaders that 40,000 redundancies might be needed early next year.

### Sunday start

After a dispute lasting a year the 150 blastfurnacemen involved, who have prevented the furnace operating since last February, will now start work on Sunday. This follows agreement last night at the end of two tough five-hour negotiating sessions on a top blastfurnacemen's rate of £99 a week.

This was a compromise on earlier figures and, while taking into account cost-of-living wage rises in recent months, was thought by the Corporation to be in line with Government pay policy.

It raised the status-conscious

blastfurnacemen to the level of a "steelmaker" but was not expected to lead to consequential pay rises from other workers.

Mr. Gordon Sambrook, BSC managing director for personnel and social policy, was enthusiastic about the prospects of opening up the new Llanwern development when he spoke last night after reaching the settlement.

"We've had negotiations that have gone on too long for all of us on this but now we can go ahead and operate the most effective piece of engineering we've got in the country for making iron," he declared. "I know the NUB will go out and make it work. The equipment is a scene setter."

Mr. Hector Smith, general secretary of the NUB, who will join other union leaders for talks on the threatened redundancies next Monday, underlined the unions' fears about jobs when he said: "It is nice to get a settlement before Christmas but we had to make an agreement today anyway because of the cut-back in the BSC offer of £100 and union claim of £115. But the figures are not strictly comparable because the new offer includes cost of living rises thought to be worth some £250 a week. Proportionately lower rates for the rest of the 150 blastfurnacemen—there is only one keeper on each shift—will now be fixed."

On the issue of the Government's pay limit, Mr. Sambrook

said: "This is not a question of pay policy because we have a piece of new plant and we have had to fix new rates for it. But the Government has been made aware of our negotiating stance." What this means under the policy is that new pay rates outside the £8 limit can be set for new plant but that these rates have to be kept within sight of the traditional limits of the industry's pay structures.

### £94.50 'lead'

Last night's settlement fixes the top-rated man—the "keeper"—on the blast furnace at a £94.50 "lead in" figure immediately and £99 at "optimum performance" in a few months time which is the same as the "steel-maker", who traditionally earn more gets. This will probably give the men involved some £10 to £12 a week more than they have been receiving on less complicated and bitter dispute which appears to have been reached, the results will not immediately be visible since the hospital service is anyway run down over the Christmas holidays.

## Doctors may end action to-day

By Christian Tyler, Labour Staff

MOST OF the junior hospital doctors taking industrial action are expected to resume normal working from today allowing many hospitals to resume their full service after Christmas.

A national committee representing 19,000 doctors from housemen to senior registrars yesterday decided by 35 votes to nine to recommend suspension of the industrial action which began officially a month ago but in some places started in the middle of October. Official industrial action by consultants continues, but is not widespread.

Although the committee merely recommended suspension and gave no clue about how long that suspension might last, it is thought that most doctors will now end their overtime ban and resume treating non-emergency cases.

This is because many of the regions represented on the national committee decided in advance to accept yesterday's decision as final. The size of the majority also reflected the wish of most doctors to accept the latest Government proposals for settling their dispute about overtime pay and contractual hours.

Although the end of this long, complicated and bitter dispute appears to have been reached, the results will not immediately be visible since the hospital service is anyway run down over the Christmas holidays.

### Authority

Officially, yesterday's recommendation is to be considered, and voted on at local level. Some doctors, particularly in the South East and in inner London, may decide to continue their action for another month at least while new contracts are worked out.

Behind the wording of yesterday's resolution of the hospital junior staffs committee of the British Medical Association is the fear that the severe financial terms of the agreement with the Government preclude it from inviting voluntary redundancies, as too expensive.

The fact that the shop floor, despite all the protestations about improving industrial communications, has first read about the agreement and then been told what the terms are, without having the chance to negotiate them, has aroused a mounting wave of opposition. Factory workers could well occur.

The Stoke employees yesterday demanded the right to negotiate on factors affecting members, rejected compulsory redundancy and instead called for work-sharing and improved redundancy terms.

This is perhaps the most crucial of all manufacturing areas, since it supplies the great bulk of the £100m-a-year contract with Iran for assembly of cars, to which the Government attaches high importance.

Ministers defend test Page 6

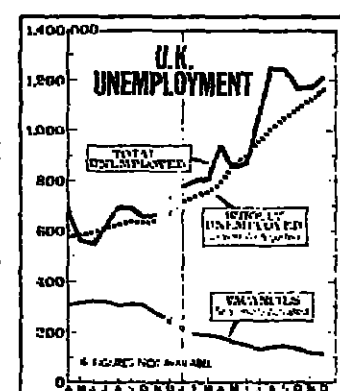
## Further sharp rise in unemployment

BY WILLIAM KEEGAN, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYMENT in the U.K. rose a further 42,588 to 1,211,464 between mid-November and mid-December, with no signs of any slackening in the sharp upward trend.

Announcing the figures yesterday Mr. Michael Foot, Secretary for Employment, said: "We regard a level of unemployment of this kind as appalling, and we do not regard it as tolerable. But it is not going to be easy to bring it down speedily."

The crude unemployment total, which includes students who register during vacations, is not yet back to the 1,250,000 reached in August.



### New peaks

But that level is bound to be exceeded next month, and meanwhile all the measurements of wholly unemployed, seasonally adjusted or not, have reached new peaks for any month since the war.

The seasonally adjusted figure of wholly unemployed, generally regarded as the best guide to trends, has jumped 37,500 this month to 1,183,100, or 5 per cent, of the labour force.

Many forecasts now in circulation suggest that, in spite of the apparent "bottoming out" in the recession indicated by recent output figures, the trend of unemployment will be upwards for much of next year.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recently forecast a level of 1.1m. (seasonally adjusted) next year, implying a crude total in the region of 1.7m.

Mr. Foot said yesterday he would not go so far as to agree that unemployment would rise throughout 1976. But he emphasised that "dealing with figures of this character depends on the Government being able to take more far-reaching economic measures altogether." And that depended on continuing success with the counter-inflation policy.

The disappointing trend in unemployment is "borne out by the official figures of vacancies notified to employment exchanges, which fell a further

2,500 (seasonally adjusted) to 114,800 between mid-November and mid-December.

Last night Opinion Research Centre rammed the situation home further by announcing that "30 top people from industry, commerce and the professions and the 'City' had contributed to a report forecasting 1.2m. unemployed by next December."

### TUC comment

Commenting on the December figures Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said: "Earlier in the year it was the general expectation that we would see the signs of an upturn in activity by the end of the year. It is a source of great concern to everyone that in terms of unemployment this is not yet detectable."

"In preparing our 1976 Economic Review we will emphasise that though we understand international difficulties there are equally vital considerations at home, including the creation of an effective industrial strategy and improved productivity."

"All this will be at risk unless confidence in an early upturn in the economy can soon be demonstrated."

Map, Page 6; Editorial Comment, Page 8

## EEC backs Government's Chrysler rescue plan

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE EEC Commission gave its blessing yesterday to the Government's £162m. rescue plan for Chrysler U.K., leaving the company's trade unions as the only remaining obstacle to implementation of the proposal next year.

Yesterday two more of Chrysler's main plants, Linwood in Scotland, and Stoke, Coventry, added their opposition to that already voiced by the Ryton workers at Coventry. Both groups of workers hit out against the company's compulsory redundancy proposals, which will affect 8,000 employees.

### Vital meeting

How this reaction will influence the attitude of the Government and Chrysler remains to be seen. A vital meeting of the company's joint shop stewards committee will be held on Monday, followed by talks with the management. Chrysler is waiting for this meeting before making further moves to implement the rescue proposals.

Meanwhile, the Government will be relieved by the unconditional approval of the plan given by the EEC.

The Chrysler operation, described by an EEC spokesman as "the least bad option," was given the green light after some 30 minutes of discussion, in which it was agreed that though the rescue would be ruled out of court on any strict interpretation

of the Treaty of Rome, political necessity required that the Commission give reluctant approval. As expected, the most unhappy acquiescence came from the Commissioner in charge of Competition Policy, Mr. Alfred Borchetta, who thought that the loss funding aspects of the package were particularly unacceptable.

The Commission justified its decision on the grounds that it was urgent to save jobs, particularly at Linwood, and because the State aid being provided would not distort trading conditions within the Community because of the small market share held by the company in the U.K. and on the Continent.

The package has received its formal blessing under Article 92 (3c) of the Treaty of Rome, the most permissive of the regulations governing the Commission's highly contentious competence to monitor State aids to prevent distortion of competition. This, which was also used to justify the Leyland rescue, permits aid to help develop "certain economic activities" or "certain economic areas" provided it does not run counter to an ill-defined common interest.

The Commission said that it had sought no guarantees about the implementation of the Chrysler agreement, and had not investigated the possibility of any market-sharing arrangements between Chrysler UK and the Chrysler Simca subsidiary in

France. It has apparently told the Government that should Chrysler prove a case for further treatment, it wants to be consulted in advance, not presented with a fait accompli.

### Wave of dissent

On Monday the shop stewards' meeting is expected to produce several hostile resolutions to the mandatory sackings. Management's position, however, remains that the severe financial terms of the agreement with the Government preclude it from inviting voluntary redundancies, as too expensive.

The fact that the shop floor, despite all the protestations about improving industrial communications, has first read about the agreement and then been told what the terms are, without having the chance to negotiate them, has aroused a mounting wave of opposition. Factory workers could well occur.

The Stoke employees yesterday demanded the right to negotiate on factors affecting members, rejected compulsory redundancy and instead called for work-sharing and improved redundancy terms.

This is perhaps the most crucial of all manufacturing areas, since it supplies the great bulk of the £100m-a-year contract with Iran for assembly of cars, to which the Government attaches high importance.

Ministers defend test Page 6

## SWS cancels interim dividend in 'changed circumstances'

BY KEITH LEWIS

THE NEW Board of Slater Walker Securities has decided that the interim dividend declared on the Ordinary shares in August will not now be paid. The Board, which was hastily assembled under the chairmanship of Mr. Jimmy Goldsmith in late October at the time of the departure of Mr. Jim Slater, and includes representatives of merchant banks N. M. Rothschild and Hambros, has adopted this line of action in view of the company's "changed circumstances."

The news was sufficient to knock the share price back 17p at one stage, putting a market capitalisation on the company of around £12.7m. The price subsequently recovered to 21p, down 5p on the day, this contrast with a high for 1975 of 108p and an all-time high approaching 300p.

No further official comment was forthcoming beyond the traditional SWS response to Press inquiries of "no comment."

The changed circumstances referred to do not necessarily relate to any deterioration in profitability or balance-sheet position, and the Board by its action is merely showing its reluctance to enter into unnecessary commitments before the report of the two accounting firms, Price Waterhouse and Peat Marwick and Mitchell, is completed. This is not expected until the middle of next month.

An interim dividend may be cancelled up until the time of payment, which would in this case have been on January 8. It is not possible to cancel a final dividend once it has been

### PUBLISHERS' NOTICE

The Financial Times, in common with other national daily newspapers, will not be published on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The next issue will be on Saturday, December 27.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Northampton is the major shopping and commercial centre for the area. New office buildings and sites are available. It has easy access to the M1 motorway and lies midway between London and Birmingham. It's an ideal centre for distribution.

Northampton's new employment and residential areas are attractively landscaped. Houses are available for employees of firms moving to the town.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Leslie Austin Crowe

L. Austin-Crowe, Chief Estate Surveyor to Northampton Development Corporation



LOMBARD

# Annual test of your shrewdness

BY C. GORDON TETHER

FOREWARNED is forearmed. And there is, therefore, no better way of forearming yourself for the trials and tribulations of the coming year than discovering— with the help of the Lombard Column's annual computer-related shrewdness test—how mentally fit you are to cope with them. Consider which of the suggested answers to each of the following questions is nearest the truth. Counting three for an (a), two for a (b), and one for a (c), set the total against the shrewdness diagnosis below.

1. Many of the leading industrial countries have eliminated their shares of the collective oil deficit years ahead of schedule—even though it had been internationally agreed that duty to the rest of the world not to make special efforts to this end. Has this happened because: (a) they did not know what procedures to follow to fulfil this obligation; (b) their hands have been forced by factors over which they had no control; (c) they wanted to rid themselves of the bugbear of being dependent on borrowing abroad?

2.—The Government has been adopting an extremely low key approach to the promotion of Britain's unification with the European Community in spite of the outcome of the referendum. Is this because: (a) it does not approve of taking the country appreciably further into the EEC than it has gone already; (b) it feels that it will serve the country better to slow until conditions are more propitious; (c) it believes that fastest progress can now be achieved by undercover negotiations?

3.—After years of procrastination, an official go-ahead has been given to an invasion of the commercial banking field by the savings banks and National Giro. Is this because: (a) these institutions have taken a long time to muster the courage to shoulder the responsibilities involved; (b) it has only recently been possible to convince the "corridors of power" that such an expansion in retail banking facilities was in the public interest; (c) City interests have at last ceased using their influence to prevent the emergence of such competition?

4.—Washington has worked strenuously to clear the way for the sale of part of the IMF's gold stock for releasing additional money to help developing countries. Is this because: (a) it is determined to use every available tool to relieve Third World poverty; (b) it believes that the operation will have a stabilising effect on the international monetary situation; (c) the IMF's gold stock is being sold to help developing countries.

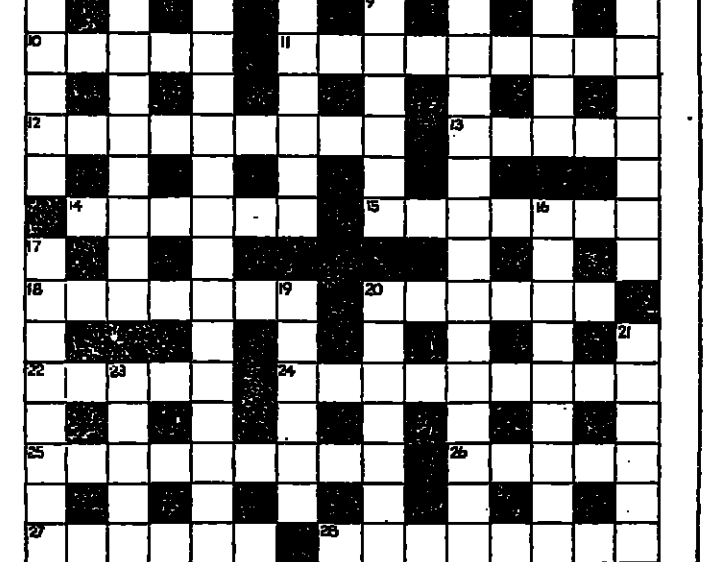
## Bonallack to be chairman of new PGA Board

MR. MICHAEL BONALLACK, former British amateur golf champion and Walker Cup captain, is to be the new chairman of the Professional Golfers' Association. This follows the reorganisation of the PGA agreed at last month's annual meeting. He will take up his appointment—technically as chairman of the new Board of management on which the PGA's general and tournament divisions will be equally represented—on January 1 and serve for an initial two-year period.

The other members of the new Board are Mr. Jack Hargreaves of Sutton Coldfield, the PGA vice-president, Mr. Byron Hutchinson (Moorstown) and Mr. Douglas Smith (Dunbar Forest) representing the general division and Mr. Peter Butler (unattached), Mr. Neil Coles (Holiday Inn, Heathrow) and Mr. David Rees the PGA captain (South Herts.), for the tournament division.

Mr. Bonallack, 41, is a major figure in British and world golf.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2,964



- ACROSS**
- 1 Faces quarry in foolish practice (4, 4)
  - 5 Crush by male with bandage (6)
  - 10 Flood for doctor to acknowledge (5)
  - 11 TV still made easy (3, 2, 4)
  - 12 Fabric for the people the pair of us welcome (4, 5)
  - 13 Dismissed engineers for being unconventional (5)
  - 14 Trophy Edward wins with shot (6)
  - 15 Sailor meets second in command by chance (7)
  - 18 Part of Europe that went to the dogs (7)
  - 20 Its pal re-arranged a hair style (6)
  - 22 Going out for a copy of paper (5)
  - 24 Two pubs Scots boy finds savage (3)
  - 25 Shopkeeper's job is the undoing of a docker (9)
  - 26 Pistol to pull on the Queen (6)
  - 27 Scorn the bus journey in Camptown (6)
  - 28 Staff for writing, Heather's hints (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Change could be the making of my Fido (6)
  - 2 Agreeable aspects of beauty (4, 5)
  - 3 Best seller is blown away (4, 4, 3, 4)
  - 4 Lost when motorway's put down (7)
  - 6 Unprecedented to be given no latitude (7, 8)
  - 7 Pinching this paper (5)
  - 8 Have a meal in lobby during prayer (8)
  - 9 Wave about in wind like a flower (6)
  - 16 Finding a tenant willing to be confiding (7, 2)
  - 17 Gauged by American state one brought up... (8)
  - 19... although there's a table upset (6)
  - 20 Excellent example of equality past beginning of November (7)
  - 21 Serves to benefit nurses for a change (6)
  - 22 "Hyperion to a —" (Hamlet) (5)

**SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 2,963**

COMEBY HANDICAP  
O A A M P E O E  
M A L A R I A P I C K L E R  
A M A T R A Z O T U  
M A R C H M A N E T R A C K S  
N O R T H E A S T  
O T T O B E R  
G E T O V E R M O R A L E  
T A P E N S A  
H A R D W O O D E S E V O I D  
R U N A N A N K  
I M P O U N D A N I N E  
F O U N D E W N E  
T R E A S U R E N O G G I N

CRICKET

BY TONY COZIER

## Melbourne Test crowd likely to beat world record

MELBOURNE, Dec. 23.

THE THIRD test between Australia and the West Indies, which starts here on Boxing Day, is the ultimate dream of every cricket treasurer.

The two best and most attractive teams in international cricket are engaged in a crucial match, Australia having won the First Test and the West Indies the Second.

In the most sports-conscious city of one of the most sports-conscious nations in the world, crowd expectations are for a crowd on the opening day in excess of 100,000 at the vast concrete stadium that is Melbourne Cricket Ground.

In the series between the same countries half a century ago, still regarded as the best the game has known, nearly 81,000 watched the first day of the Fifth Test, still a world record. Granted reasonable weather, that should be easily surpassed.

Gate receipts could be Aust\$500,000 or more and certainly will not be less than Aust\$400,000, which emphasises the West Indies Cricket Board of Control's claim that it is being ungenerously treated over the financial arrangements.

The West Indies' guarantee for the entire tour is Aust\$240,000, which, after expenses, leaves them a mere Aust\$35,000 or so in the black.

Full value

On the field, there should be full value for the money which the spectators will pay. So far, the two Tests have yielded remarkable cricket Australia won the first by eight wickets—a far more closely fought contest than the result indicated.

In the Second Test at Perth, the West Indies responded with such a ruthlessly brilliant performance that they won before lunch on the fourth day by an innings and 87 runs.

It was a defeat which seemed, at the time, to have severely crushed the previously buoyant Australian spirit.

Aggressive batting of the highest quality by Fredericks and Lloyd savaged the fast bowling of Lillee and Thomson, so destructive against England only a season ago.

Roberts, with his sustained speed and accuracy, revealed glaring weaknesses in the Australian batting by taking seven for 54 in their second innings.

Since then, the West Indies have allowed the Australians to forget much of the Perth debacle.

They have played a one-day international limited-overs match and a three-day game against South Australia here with total complacency and have been outplayed in both.

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MELBOURNE, Dec. 23.

Since Cosier also bowls steady medium-pace as a left-hander, he will replace one of the faster bowlers—Thomson, Gilmour or Walker.

Thomson has taken only four wickets for 288 runs so far but, even so, it would be surprising if the selectors dismantle the Lillee-Thomson partnership just yet.

### Challenge

Australia's batting has depended heavily on the Chappell brothers and badly misses Walters, out for the series with injury, and Edwards, who retired after the tour of England. Cosier, despite his undoubted promise, faces a stiff challenge.

The West Indies took the game of reducing their batting to strengthen their bowling at Perth and it paid. They are unlikely to change the balance now, although the injury to their young fast bowler, Holding, is an appreciable setback.

Holding pulled a leg muscle on the last day of the Second Test, and although he has fought hard to be fit his progress has not been as fast as had been hoped.

His speed and hostility have been excellent support for Roberts, and Holding, his likely replacement, cannot provide them.

The startling experiment of opening the batting with Julien is not likely to be repeated now that Greenidge is back among the players, a fact which would stabilise the order.

Melbourne is, by repute, the slowest pitch in Australia and the likelihood to produce a high scoring draw. Yet after two tests which have ended with at least a day to spare, that would be a surprising and disappointing result.

Best presents

If you are looking for a garden shrub at the last minute, I will only say that the best Christmas presents I have given have been the sweetest-scented, winter-flowering shrubs which grow out of doors are to my mind far better presents than the forced azaleas, potpourri and other things which pass so prettily through our lives until they drop their leaves and die in March.

If you are given a pot-pourri, do stand it on the kitchen window-sill in order to brighten the cook's life and give the kitchen a fashionably bourgeois air of horticultural and herbarist activity. The heat from the oven dries out plants on the kitchen-sill kitchen temperature varies more widely than those in other rooms; windows let in draughts, and I doubt if even Arthur Hellyer could coax a cyclamen to survive there for many months.

One trunk of this venerable relic was cut under Charles I; the second was hacked down during the Revolution; it was said, by a thorn which had been the sign of one eye. The third trunk, according to the legend, was not so easily rooted out. Other Glastonbury Thorns were believed to be growing from Cheshire to Kent, and although some of them flowered remarkably late (as they still do) there were enough unverified rumours to keep the story alive.

Unsurpassed

In 1752, the authorities tried to push it about. The "new style" Gregorian calendar was introduced into England, breaking up the lore of feast-days, the attachment of psalms to particular moments and the whole seasonal basis on which men's grandfathers had run their lives. Christmas, men thought, no longer fell on "old" Christmas Day; the date was being fudged.

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GARDENS TO-DAY

## The Glastonbury Thorn

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

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# A Christmas package

by NIGEL ANDREWS



A scene from 'Jaws'. Nigel Andrews will review this more fully next week

Ingmar Bergman's *The Magic Flute* is much the best thing this year in the way of purpose-built Christmas entertainment. It is neither of those tie-ups between film and television about whose relative and commercial future there are certain doubts. Last year's contribution, *Akenfeld*, as an unmitigated disaster, and though Ingmar Bergman's film is artistically joyous and imaginative where that was lacking and lugubrious — its excess at the box office may well be threatened by its simultaneous appearance on television. (It makes its bow on TV on Boxing Day). But it was made originally for cinema and it is a pity to see it on television. I can't really urge you to go to see it on Friday evening to visit

the Gala Royal. Like most good films, however, *The Magic Flute* deserves two viewings, and if you enjoyed it the first time round on the small screen you may enjoy it even more the second time on the large screen. If your tastes are less classical, there is always *Carry On Behind*. The team has a new scriptwriter (Dave Freeman) and a new star (Elke Sommer) but you would be hard put to tell the difference between this film and its predecessors. *Bosoms*, bottoms and double entendres are the order of the day, and the plot is the usual maelstrom of mistaken identity and embarrassing confrontations (in a camping field accidentally invaded by archaeologists). It's patchy stuff, but the middle half hour or so is very funny, and there is no resisting the epicurean purr and the magisterial quivering nostrils

## Donald MacLeary

On December 27 Donald MacLeary makes his farewell as premier danseur at Covent



Donald MacLeary

Garden, as the Prince in *Cinderella*. A recurrent injury has bedevilled him during the past year and it is now to rob us of a much admired artist. MacLeary graduated from the Royal Ballet School 20 years ago to join the Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, progressing from there to Covent Garden in 1959. Here began the partnership with Svetlana Beriosova which illuminated much of the repertoire, notably the full-length ballets in which both artists' romantic style and classic elegance were so well displayed. MacLeary created many roles — outstandingly in MacMillan ballets — and in everything his distinction of manner and smooth virtuosity were placed at the service of the part. He is celebrated as a superlative partner.

His gifts are still to be used by the Royal Ballet. Appointed Ballet Master, he has taken up this new and important role with the knowledge that he has the respect and admiration of the entire ballet world.

CLEMENT CRISP

## A touring company for ENO

The possibility of establishing a high-quality opera company for national touring which would be based at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, is being investigated by Arts Council.

The scheme under discussion envisages the setting up of an English National Opera Company in Leeds as a regionally-based parallel to the ENO authorities, who would be based at the Coliseum, Liverpool. The new company would support

probably play six weeks initially in Leeds, from the autumn of 1977 onwards, and take over the bulk of the ENO touring commitment, performing up to 26 weeks in the regions.

Big-scale Coliseum productions would continue to tour. The success of the scheme, says the Arts Council, depended on the reaction of local authorities, who would be expected to provide financial support.

## Max Pirani Memorial Prize

On Sunday, January 4, at 7.30 p.m. a concert is being given in the Wigmore Hall to establish the Max Pirani Memorial Prize for piano trio at the Royal Academy of Music. Max Pirani was well known to generations of pianists both at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was first appointed Professor in 1926,

as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

The Pirani Trio, which he formed in 1923 with Lella Doubleday and Charles Hambourg, enjoyed an international reputation; during the 1920s and 1930s many of his London recitals were given in the Wigmore Hall.

With the lower galleries at the Hayward fully occupied by Burne-Jones for two whole months, the Arts Council was faced by the empty space upstairs and the problem of how best to fill it. Its solution was to revive an idea it has tried somewhat half-heartedly at odd times in the past, when caught similarly empty-handed, to invite certain artists to show whatever work they have available. This time the scheme has been managed admirably, set up straightforwardly and with little fuss, without any impediments of theme and dogma: the work has been left simply to stand up for itself in its own way. And 14 artists, in two batches, have been given a month each in one of London's best and most prominent exhibition spaces.

Many artists feel, and with some justification, that not enough is done for them by our institutions. The commercial galleries are full, the doors firmly shut, and none of the horses over-anxious to make a run for it anyway whilst the races, the Tours and Biennales and Awards, all of them might easily appear to be fixed. And, in any case, they are too few and infrequent, the fields too large, to be worth entering. The range of serious contemporary activity is extremely wide, and needs to be monitored by constant sampling. It cannot be done by ambitious surveys, no matter how catholic and well-meaning.

This latest enterprise, however, is exactly right, the kind of thing that should happen regularly as a matter of course: indeed it must if it is to turn aside the same suspicion that it is a put-up job. The selection committee, in their apology, express the fond hope that it should indeed be repeated. They asked for work that had not been shown widely before, but imposed no restrictions of age, experience or reputation. There was, it seems, none of the rigmarole that necessarily attaches to the business of choosing amongst those young artists who apply to the Council's Serpentine Gallery. They simply nosed around, keeping their eyes open. It is all most encouraging.

The shows themselves have been enjoyable and interesting, the work shown off to advantage and looking as good as it ever will. But the choice has been a shade predictable, and therefore disappointing. Advancing curiosity may just be too much to expect at this stage. All six artists in the first show have been shown prominently before, five of them by the Arts Council. Four were in "British

Painting 74" only a year ago; and three, David Hepburn, Anthony Hill and John Walker, show regularly in good commercial galleries.

It was nice to see their work again, though I have certain doubts about Hill's modular constructivism; but not exactly a priority. John McLean is less familiar, however, and it was useful to see a significant group of his deceptively simple hard-edge abstract paintings together. Robert Mason too deserved his opportunity, with his small, dense collages, compounded as it were of studio scraps and droppings, but drawn and scraped and pressed into intriguing elegant and sometimes beautiful images. The best work of all was by Carl Plackman, a sculptor, secretive, rather menacing and theatrical. He drew us into a kind of nightmarish laboratory, full of furniture and implements that were redolent of fetiche and ritual. Had the business just finished, or was it about to begin? The work, make and immitate, offered no clue, nor did such a title as "The Archaeology of Love". It is fascinating and strange work, and we see it too seldom.

The second group of artists now holds the stage for its first hour. Of the eight, all are worth some attention, and in general they are less well-known than the others. Some enjoyed a certain success in the past, more so than now, their names half-familiar, half-forgotten.

Artists often lie low for years on end, by accident or design, passed over through a shift in taste, perhaps, or because the work had changed, or needed more time and thought, or because this is a perfect tool for wringing such creatures out, should they care to come.

Peter Startup's small plaster and wooden totems, undemonstrative and self-contained, possess nevertheless an authentic and strong sculptural authority that deserves respect. And Malcolm Hughes conjures out of simple systematic progressions, rendered diagrammatically at first, images of great density and ambiguity. As with the loaves and fishes, we are rather surprised at how much there turns out to be. John Ashworth's energetic reliefs are entertaining when they move, and formally interesting at rest, which is not always the case with kinetic sculpture. But the essential problem remains unsolved, for viewing one state, one wishes for the other. Movement will turn into performance, with the side-show element dominating the experience. Yet Ashworth's is a creditable essay, and his objects most engaging as they swing their hips against the wall.

The most trivial pieces to be seen is Gerald Newman's contemporary tableau, a painted sign reading: View, West, Evening, which we contemplate to an accompaniment of taped bird-song; all



Nicholas Monro: 'Walters' race

## Greenwood

This *Cinderella* (produced, directed and written by Charles Vance) is a classic-type pantomime, designed exclusively for children. When I went, children outnumbered adults by about three to one, and they were more personally engaged than children at any pantomime I have been to. They not only responded in full voice to every urge from the stage, they exchanged spontaneous dialogue with the players. Buttons watered the magical lollipop tree and it began to sprout. "It's on a string!" shouted my neighbour. "She's got no chance!" sneered an Ugly Sister as Dandini put the slipper to Cinderella's foot. "Wanna bet?" he asked, and from the stalls, you can understand the Ugly Sister's ill-temper when she took her shoe off for the trial, she was met with a cry of "Cheesy feet!" As for the obligatory audience song (a little number called "There's a worm at the bottom of my garden"), the response was thunderous. All this is very largely due to a young man called Tony Madden, who plays Buttons. Mr. Madden is clearly an entertainer of genius. He does an impression in *Cinderella*, the only concession made to extraneous individual acts; he does a pop singer miming to a record, knife-edged, hilariously. But his main function in this show is to keep on terms with the kids, and with his tireless good humour, his cheek, his "Wanna bet?" and his magnetic Cockney personality stand the Ugly Sister's ill-temper when she took her shoe off for the trial, she was met with a cry of "Cheesy feet!" As for the obligatory audience song (a little number called "There's a worm at the bottom of my garden"), the response was thunderous. All this is very largely due to a young man called Tony Madden, who plays Buttons. Mr. Madden is clearly an entertainer of genius. He does an impression in *Cinderella*, the only concession made to extraneous individual acts; he does a pop singer miming to a record, knife-edged, hilariously. 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— 1979 —



EUROPEAN NEWS

# Italian Cabinet approves £12.5bn. investment plans

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON

ROME, Dec. 23.

THE ITALIAN Cabinet today approved the final draft of two major and connected bills aimed at providing massive new financial assistance for the modernisation of Italian industry and the development of the Mezzogiorno.

Industry Minister Carlo Donat Cattin said the draft bills approved today should be capable of financing total investment worth L18,000bn. (£13.5bn.) over the next three years.

The new bill for industrial reconstruction, which will be presented to parliament within the new year, provides for the creation of a new inter-ministerial committee to examine and approve proposed modernisation plans linked to a specially created L1,500bn. fund for industrial reconstruction. These funds will be made available for approved projects on a subsidised interest basis, while a further L1,500bn. will be made available by the special credit institutes which will raise the funds by bond issues.

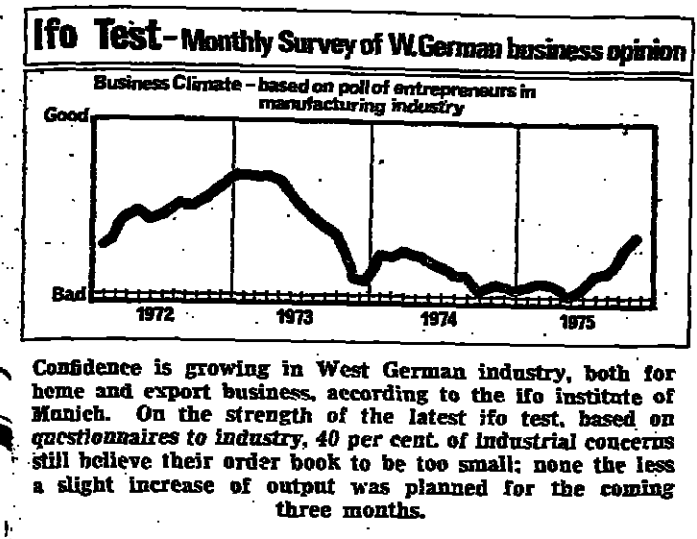
These funds will be available for modernising existing industrial plants and should therefore stimulate new investment to a total of L3,000bn. Sig. Donat Cattin said.

The new Bill also provides for the reconstruction of industrial reconstruction law number 623 which should provide a further L1,400bn. annually over the next three years on a similar basis.

As for the new policy towards

the development of Southern Italy, this consists of a downgrading of the role of the Cassa Per il Mezzogiorno and a more incisive role for the regions who will have much greater say in the formulation of projects for investment. The Cassa will in future be essentially the agent of the central Government and the central Government and the development of the Mezzogiorno.

To further encourage industrial investment in the south the Government has also approved a L1,500bn. contribution to reduce the social charges borne by employers on workers employed in the south while investment projects worth L4,000bn. have been authorised for the state control industries in this area over the next three years.



## Another austerity package for Portugal

By Jane Bergerol

ANOTHER ROUND of austerity measures was expected to be announced tonight during Prime Minister Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo's televised Christmas message to the nation.

Christmas dinners are being affected by food shortages, particularly butter, which has been unavailable in Lisbon for the past fortnight, and there is a shortage of bottled gas for cooking.

To compound the gloom surrounding the country's ailing economy, the French, with the economic recession and rise in unemployment substantial numbers are now likely to be forced to return home, aggravating the Lisbon Government's already acute unemployment problem.

The current jobless rate in Portugal is at least 12 per cent. and to this must be added around 150,000 white refugees from Angola and Mozambique, bringing the total numbers up to around 450,000. If to this is now added another 100,000 from France, the total number of unemployed becomes substantially greater.

The French Minister is the first to visit Lisbon since the April 25, 1974, revolution, pointing out the decided cooling which the President Giscard d'Estaing regards post-April 25 Portugal.

Reuter adds: Anti-Communist riots took place in the northern fishing town of Povoa de Varzim today in defiance of an appeal by the Revolutionary Council for Portuguese to work for peace.

While the council appealed for calm, unity and patriotism, hundreds of demonstrators besieged a Communist headquarters in the town and gave a small group of party officials trapped inside a few hours to leave the town or face the consequences.

The trouble in Povoa de Varzim was the most serious since last month's abortive Left-wing uprising and recalled the wave of anti-Communist violence that swept through the conservative north in the summer.

## German decline in U.S. car market hits VW

BY GUY HAWTIN

FRANKFURT, Dec. 23.

VOLKSWAGEN, West Germany's largest motor manufacturer, has taken a pounding in the U.S. market this year and is not expected to do much better during 1976. The result has been a spectacular overall fall in car exports to the U.S.

In contrast to the popular motor manufacturers—who have been feeling the effects a much tiffier competition from Detroit in the small car market—the Volkswagen Group has been doing particularly well. But although their sales were substantially up, they were not sufficient to offset an overall 22.2 per cent. drop in unit sales of West German cars from 1974's 594,000 to 462,000.

Small car manufacturers were hit by the fall of the dollar against the Deutsche mark, as well as by cost increases at home. General Motors—the U.S. market leader—cut its exports of West German models from 1974's 59,454 vehicles to 5,500. Next year Opel imports are forecast at a mere 4,500. The shortfall is being made up by U.S.-produced small cars and imports from Japan.

Imports of the Ford Capri declined from last year's 78,260 to 55,000 units and although Ford is making no predictions about 1976 business, the feeling is that further falls are certain. In contrast Audi sales rose slightly—on 50,432 units to 51,500—but little more than stagnation is

foreseen for 1976. Sales are likely to remain at about 50,000.

The most dramatic decline came in Volkswagen's figures. Sales dropped by 22 per cent. from 1974's 334,515 cars to 260,000, and the downward movement appeared to accelerate towards the end of the year. The fall-off in sales, however, was not as dramatic as the fall-off in sales of other Volkswagen models. Sales of the VW Beetle, for example, fell by only 10 per cent. from 1974's 174,000 to 156,000.

Mercedes-Benz of North America, however, saw a 17 per cent. increase in sales. They went up to 44,800 cars from 38,170 in 1974—a poor year which saw a 10 per cent. decline on 1973's performance. Daimler-Benz appears to have weathered the effects of the energy crisis on the sale of luxury cars, but even so, only small growth of between 2 and 3 per cent. is thought likely next year.

BMW is more optimistic. During the year sales have gone up from 1974's 15,007 to about 19,000 vehicles. Next year the growth is expected to be maintained with sales rising to 25,000 motor cars. Porsche, on the other hand, have had it tough. This luxury sports car maker saw sales plunge from 21,022 last year to about 16,500 vehicles this year. Next year they believe there will be a slight upturn in demand and put 1976 sales at about 17,000.

## EEC move to liberalise insurance

BY DAVID CURRY

BRUSSELS, Dec. 23.

THE BRUSSELS Commission has approved a draft directive aimed at allowing non-life insurance companies to offer services throughout the EEC without having to be established in more than one country.

Member states are due to implement from February 1 next a directive allowing freedom of establishment in non-life insurance while a parallel measure covering life insurance is before the Council of Ministers.

Taken together these three measures represent a significant advance towards the creation of a common market in financial services. The City of London attaches considerable importance to this development because of its belief that provided the regulations within which it must operate are relatively liberal the removal of national barriers to the offer of financial services can only enhance London's position as the EEC's prime financial centre.

The new directive is designed to remedy the situation whereby non-life insurers cannot offer services across a frontier without establishing locally and therefore coming under local regulation. To enable companies to offer the full range of insurance in more than one state would entail an enormous amount of coordination of rules. The purpose of the non-life services directive which will now go to the council is to isolate areas of very big risk—in particular transport and industrial risks—where services can be freed without a general harmonisation because they will apply essentially to very large companies which do not require law in the way the individual might in taking out life or motor policies.

The measure is likely to have a disputed passage. In particular, there are fundamental differences of opinion within the community about whether a competitive market is necessarily more desirable than a protected market (the French lean heavily towards protection) and about the size of risks which will be embraced by the directive, with the British pushing for a low threshold and the French for a higher one.

The approval of this draft directive by the Commission means that the Community is pushing ahead with widening the rules on insurance much faster than progress on the parallel series of proposals designed to liberalise banking. The first draft banking directive is still locked firmly into the Council machinery and shows no sign of emerging before summer.

## Fishing policy sought

BY ROBIN REEVES

BRUSSELS, Dec. 23.

IT ALSO urges member governments to give the mandate for negotiating with non-EEC countries in the horse trading over reciprocal fishing rights which seems bound to follow such an extension of territorial waters worldwide.

The Commission argues that the basic principle of the CFP should continue to be free access to EEC waters for all Community fishermen. But it accepts that the loss of fishing rights elsewhere and the need to conserve fishery stocks will require the setting of catch quotas.

The Commission today called for member countries to define a common position for the final phase of the UN Law of the Sea Conference and to lay down guidelines for amending the CFP after the adoption of a 200-mile community fishing zone.

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## Swiss output drops 14%

BY JOHN WICKS

ZURICH, Dec. 23.

THE third quarter of this year saw a drop of only 1.4 per cent. in industrial production in Switzerland, as against falls of 18 per cent. in the two first quarters. Among the two first quarters, the output of the textile and clothing industries declined over the corresponding period of 1974, the output of the metal and engineering industries showed a higher production—by 3 per cent.—over the year. This was due to favourable water supply.

Elsewhere, there was a slight increase in the decline rate for export industries, resulting in a 20 per cent. for metals.

## THREE DAYS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### BBC 1

† Indicates programme in black and white

- 8.45 a.m. Teddy Edward. 8.50 The Mister Men. 9.00 Banana Splits (cartoon). 9.25 Before the Ark. 10.05 The Engineer Through the Looking Glass. 11.05 Away in a Village. 11.40 Holiday Star Trek. 12.30 p.m. Foghorn Leghorn. 12.35 Laurel and Hardy in "Thicker than Water". 12.55 News. 1.00 Peppermint Christmas Special. 2.05 "Jumbo" starring Doris Day. 4.05 Bugs Bunny. 4.15 The Crackerjack. Pantomime: "Robinson Crusoe" starring Don Maclean, Peter Glass, Jan Hunt. 5.20 News. 5.25 Tom and Jerry (London and South East only). 5.30 Regional News (All other English Regions). 5.45 Jimmy Fix It. 6.30 Walt Disney's "The Great Locomotive Chase" starring Fess Parker. 7.55 The Dick Emery Christmas Show. 8.25 Porridge. 8.30 Christmas with Kojak. 10.45 News. 11.00 André Previn's Christmas Music Night. 11.50 Midnight Mass of the Nativity from St Eugene's Cathedral in the Diocese of Derby. All Regions as BBC-1 except at the following times: Wales—11.40-12.00 Taith y Gwr Doeth. 12.00-12.30 Star Trek. 12.30-12.55 Crockett. Doodle Do (cartoon). 12.55-1.00 Wales To-day. 1.00-1.15 Newyddion. 1.15-1.30 The Flying Prince of Wildfife. 1.30-1.55 Pobl y Cwm. Scotland—1.35-1.45 p.m. Scottish News. Northern Ireland—1.35-1.45 p.m. Northern Ireland News.

#### BBC 2

† Indicates programme in black and white

- 10.35 a.m. Nal Zindagi. Naya Jeevan. 11.00 Play School. 11.05 p.m. "Oliver Twist" starring Alec Guinness. 5.55 Carols from King's. 7.15 The Magic Moving Picture Show.

#### CHANNEL

† Indicates programme in black and white

- 8.25 "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian-Carlo Menotti. 9.15 Cartoon World. 9.55 News on 2. 10.00 The Old Grey Whistle Test. "Beat the Devil" starring Humphrey Bogart with Jennifer Jones, Gina Lollobrigida, Robert Morley, and Peter Lorre. 1.30 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 1.35 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 1.40 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 1.45 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 1.50 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 1.55 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.00 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.05 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.10 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.15 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.20 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.25 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.30 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.35 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.40 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.45 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.50 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 2.55 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.00 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.05 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.10 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.15 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.20 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.25 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.30 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.35 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.40 a.m. Gramma News Bulletin. 3.45 a.m. Gramma News 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## HOME NEWS

## ICI may buy Air Products' liquid CO2 interests

BY RAY DAFTER

ICI is expected to buy the liquid carbon dioxide interests of Air Products. Detailed negotiations are continuing but the final agreement is expected to be less than £1m.

The probable departure of Air Products from the bulk liquid CO2 market is in sharp contrast to the aggressive entry in the late 1960s when it stated its intention to gain 35 per cent of the U.K. market by 1975.

But the company has been dogged by supply problems and it has not managed to win a market share of more than 10 to 12 per cent.

Air Products' present sales are about 40,000 tons a year, including about 3,000 tons of cylinder gas. Subject to satisfactory completion of the

contract, Air Products will withdraw from its existing bulk business on April 1, although it will continue to supply CO2 in cylinders.

ICI Agricultural Division will acquire the CO2 plant at Stanlow, Cheshire, the bulk road CO2 market is in sharp contrast to the aggressive entry in the late 1960s when it stated its intention to gain 35 per cent of the U.K. market by 1975.

ICI's CO2 uses for liquid CO2 are for carbonisation by the brewing and soft drinks industry, and as a heat transfer medium in nuclear power stations. Other uses also occur in food and chemical manufacture, welding and foundries.

Recurring problems at Shell's ammonia plant at Ince, Cheshire, has contributed to Air Products' supply

difficulties. The company's major CO2 plant at Stanlow was established to take impure carbon dioxide from the ammonia plant for subsequent processing, purification and liquefaction.

On a number of occasions, Air Products has been compelled to import products from the Netherlands to meet existing U.K. contracts, a contrast to its operations in the U.S. where it has its own base CO2 plant.

ICI dominates the £18m, CO2 market in the U.K. owing to its ammonia plants at Billingham, Teesside, and Severnside. According to industry estimates, ICI supplies an estimated 60 per cent of the U.K. market, much of this indirectly through Dis-

cussors. The company's ammonia plant at Ince, Cheshire, has contributed to Air Products' supply

## Water Board powers to be clarified

BY DONALD MACLEAN

LEGISLATION to clarify the power of the re-constructed water authorities to levy charges for services other than water supply is expected to be introduced soon after Parliament re-assembles on January 12.

At the same time, clarification of the legal powers of local authorities to repay to water ratepayers certain charges collected in 1974-75 and the current financial year is expected to be sought.

The charges which are now repayable concern ratepayers whose properties are not connected to the main sewers.

The water industry has accepted as a "moral obligation" repayments of this kind, following the decision of the House of Lords in a recent test case that the Water Act of 1973 did not empower water authorities to raise such charges.

The amount involved for the two years is some £60m, and the repayment of this sum in the coming financial year means an increase of some 21 per cent in the average charge for general services to those not connected to the sewers.

The problems raised by the Law Lords' decision, however, threaten to equal or exceed those which the decision itself created. The government last week stated that it would not help the

## Land tax is not necessary, says panel

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

THE PROPOSED development land tax is unnecessary, as its purpose could be achieved under the present tax system, the accountancy profession claims in a special memorandum to the Inland Revenue.

The tax, due to come into effect next year, has been provisionally set at 60 per cent, but the Government has indicated its intention of raising the rate to a full 100 per cent.

Discussing the proposals set out in the August White Paper, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies maintains that the framework of the present system could meet the Government's aims. Under this system, development gains are taxed as income and coupled with the corporation and capital gains tax provisions, this could be adapted for the purpose.

Argument The Accountants argue that liability for DLT arising on the commencement of a material development should be postponed until the land is disposed of. "The problem of financing the payment of DLT will be acute and the charge will inhibit the bringing forward of land for development."

The CCAB also considers it essential that relief is given for losses in view of the high rate of DLT proposed and the possibility that, in the absence of relief, payment of DLT could be made where no overall development value had been realised.

Professionals fees incurred in computing the tax liability should be deductible, the accountants say. Other points covered include the position of owners of reversions to certain leases under the tax, the suggestion that relief for development and capital transfer tax should be given in the form of a credit rather than by deduction, and the problem of interest charged on delayed DLT payments.

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## Warning of strife if six are reinstated

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR STAFF

EVIDENCE to an industrial tribunal hearing the important "Ferrybridge Six" test case on closed shop law concluded yesterday with a warning that if the six dismissed power station workers were reinstated there would be "industrial strife" at the plant.

Because of the importance and length of the hearing—four weeks compared with the usual few days—judgment is unlikely to be given until January 13 at the earliest.

Yesterday, Mr. Alexander Irvine, counsel for the Central Electricity Generating Board, said there was a grave risk of "sharp reaction by loyal trade unionists" if the six were allowed back to their jobs as "free riders" or non-unionists.

The six men are claiming unfair dismissal from the Ferrybridge "C" station in Yorkshire. All members of the small and unrecognised Electricity Supply Union, they were sacked for not joining one of the four recognised unions who have a national closed shop agreement with the Electricity Council.

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## First council-owned refuse reclamation plant for Yorkshire

BY KENNETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT will announce early in the New Year the establishment of Britain's first local authority-owned refuse reclamation plant, one which will play a major part in the development of reclamation technology in Europe.

The plant will be at Barnsley and will cost £1.2m, at 1975 prices. Half this will be provided by the Department of the Environment, with South Yorkshire County Council finding the rest of the capital as well as a suitable site.

The plant will be based on an experimental one at the DOI Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage, which separates metals, glass, paper and plastics and putrescible elements of domestic refuse.

It is particularly adaptable to

South Yorkshire because the steel industry, glass manufacture and coal-burning industries there provide good local markets for reclamation products, such as commodities.

The reclamation plant would be the first instance to be designed to recover ferrous metals, paper, glass, and a product suitable for use as a supplementary fuel. The remainder of the "useless" material would be bulk transferred to landfill sites. This would cut the material going to landfill sites, which are in short supply in the area.

Consideration would subsequently be given to the extraction of non-ferrous metals and the preparation of a more sophisticated fuel pellet with a heat value two-thirds of that of coal. This would require a fur-

ther Environment Department grant. The scheme would be operated jointly by the Department, the county council and Warren Spring Laboratory.

The provisional plan is for design and development of the Barnsley plant over 1976-77, building in 1977-78, and commissioning in 1978-79.

The plant will be designed to operate on a five-year programme as a condition of the Department grant, but at the end of that period the whole project would become the property of South Yorkshire County Council.

The new plant would not interfere with Barnsley District Council's prerogatives for separate household collection of clean paper and newsprint.

## Honeywell signs French computer link deal

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ, ELECTRONICS CORRESPONDENT

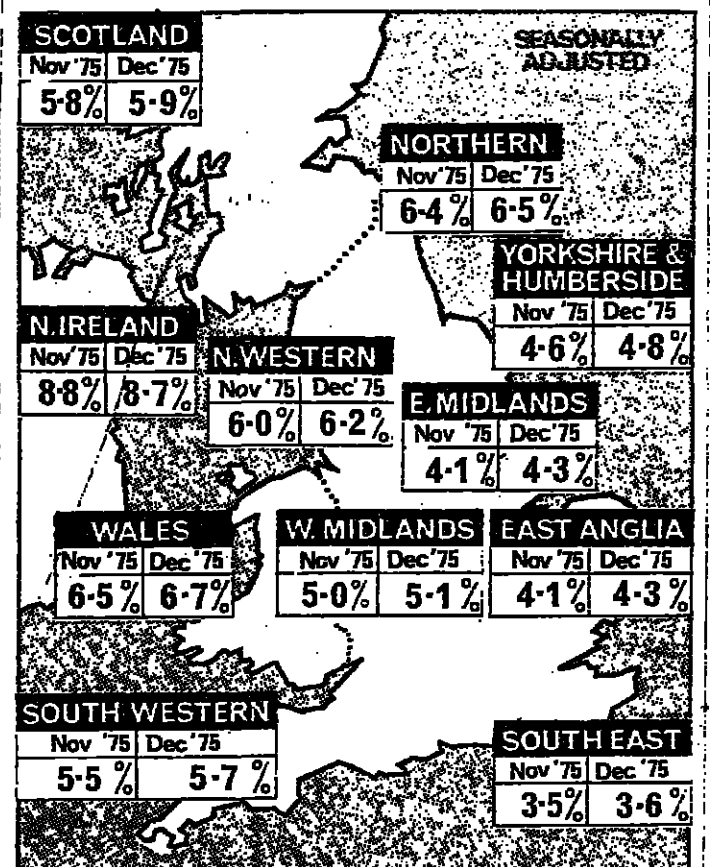
AFTER MONTHS of delay and uncertainty, Honeywell last night announced that the agreement merging its French subsidiary with the general purpose side of the national computer company has been signed.

The statement from Honeywell's president, Mr. Edson W. Spencer, put an official figure of about \$280m. on the subsidies which the French Government has contracted to pay the new company, CII-Honeywell Bull, over the next four years. Honeywell will also be paid \$88m. cash for part of its share in its French subsidiary when the deal is closed.

The deal was still subject to certain "conditions of closing," including approval by French shareholders at meetings to be held towards the end of the first quarter of 1976. Mr. Spencer said.

A Government-sponsored finance company would purchase computers sold to the Government and nationalised industries. One phrase which could become of major significance for the future of Honeywell's Scotch manufacturing operations was that "Honeywell and CII-HB will have the right to manufacture any product in the common line with decisions based on the economic feasibility of local production."

## UNEMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS



## Debt agencies to be licensed next August

By Donald Maclean

Debt collecting agencies must be licensed from August 3, as must debt adjusting, debt counselling and credit reference agencies.

Under the Consumer Credit Act (Commencement No. 11 Order, 1975, published yesterday, it will be an offence to carry on a business within the area described from August 3, unless a licence has been issued by the Director of Fair Trading.

A register of applications for licences, their issue, and other licensing matters is to be maintained by the Office of Fair Trading from February 2.

Mr. John Benthall, chairman of British Debt Services, last night welcomed the announcement. "This is something we have advocated for a long time. We are very pleased the Government has taken the decision."

February 2 is the date appointed by the Commencement Order on which Sections 35 and 36 of the Consumer Credit Act, 1974, came into operation.

Standard licences will be valid for three years, as provided for in the Consumer Credit (Period of Standard Licence) Regulations, 1975.

Licensing under the Consumer Credit Act is being introduced in three stages.

Mr. J. R. C. Holbech has been appointed to the Board of the DISTILLERS COMPANY, Mr. Holbech will join the director of Tanqueray Gordon and Co.

Mr. Clive Bradley, who joined THE OBSERVER in 1973 as director of administration and personnel, and who has been involved in its new production arrangements, is leaving the newspaper on completion of that assignment. Mr. Bradley is taking on a special commission for the newspaper from the Newspaper Association.

Mr. R. E. Keville has been appointed a director of HOGG ROBINSON GROUP.

Mr. T. B. Miller has been appointed controller of STONE PLATT INDUSTRIES from January 1.

WHESOE has announced the following appointments and subsequent re-organisation of the Board of its Dublin-based subsidiary WHESOE (IRELAND).

Mr. R. H. Bishop has been appointed a director and chairman. Mr. H. J. Bambrick will retire from his executive duties on January 31, but will remain on the Board as a non-executive director. Mr. M. A. McEvoy has been appointed a director and general manager from January 1.

Mr. John Prosser has been appointed chief executive and Mr. Stan Smith a director of BIS SOFTWARE.

Sir Eric Drake and Mr. Francis Sandilands have been appointed to the Board of KLEINWORTH BENSON LONSDALE, the parent company of Kleinwort Benson, from January 1.

Mr. J. H. Gault, on reaching 65, the retiring age for executives, will cease to be chief executive of STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS on December 31 but will remain chairman. Mr. J. T. Wishart is

## J. R. C. Holbech on Distillers Board

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Mr. Clive Bradley, who joined THE OBS



# The Executive's World

David Fishlock investigates the research on your favourite tipple

## The better the drink the less the hangover

LATE IN THE summer of 1939 London hospitals were emptied in anticipation of the casualties expected when bombs began to fall. But there followed weeks of "phony war" when the medical staffs had little to do. For one team of doctors at St. Bartholomew's it was an opportunity to carry out research on a subject dear to the heart of everyone who enjoys alcohol.

They wanted to know which drinks caused the worst hangover. They used each other as experimental animals, but tried to minimise the diversity of human behaviour by pouring measured amounts of liquor down a tube straight into the victim's stomach. These brave souls showed that the drinks with the highest hangover risk were sherry and cheap red wine.

Despite the size of the liquor industry in Britain—its turnover this year will approach £5bn—much of the research relating to its effects upon the consumers has been improvised out of this brief project. Perhaps this is not altogether surprising for the distillers and brewers might well retort—as once did a motor industry man when I asked why it didn't pay more attention to harmonising relations between man and his car—"Will it help me to sell more cars?"

But just as that motor industry man might now wish to revise this rather cynical view, so the liquor industry is coming round to the idea that it might be no bad thing to learn more of its products and what they can do. Research funding for alcohol, although many times smaller than in the U.S. is rising in Britain as the industry comes up to such questions as whether "body" in beer might be measured automatically (it's worth pausing to think about this one for a moment) or why perhaps one consumer in 25 some say one in 10) gets himself embarrassingly hooked on it.

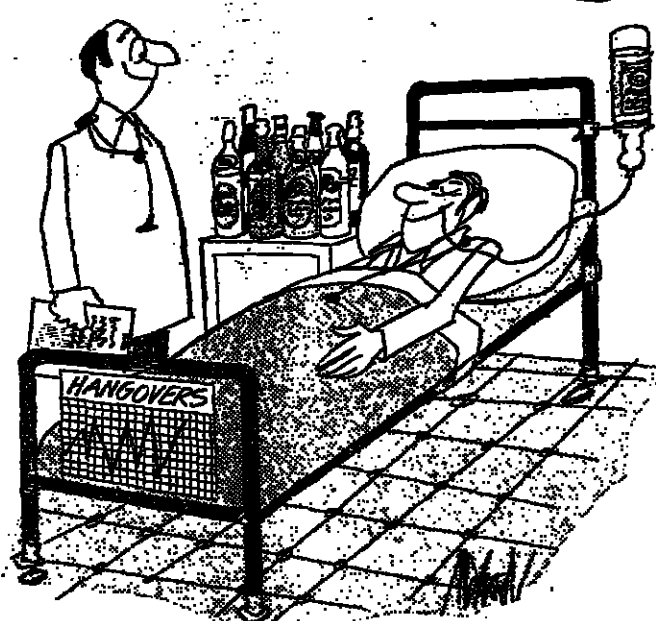
The effect of ethyl alcohol on the central nervous system is similar to that of an anaesthetic. Indeed, before the discovery of modern anaesthetics, strong liquor was often given to dull the senses of the hapless patient. The technique favoured was to administer port per rectum—its alcohol (about 20 per cent.) could reach the brain faster via the stomach while it would be less irritating to the spirit.

The amounts we normally drink have only a slight effect on the brain. But even slight effects can become dramatically amplified by the circumstances of life today, through slowing actions and dulling awareness warning signals in a fast-moving world.

### Safety

This is demonstrated most clearly, of course, in road accident statistics, where the relation between fairly easy drinking and the more serious type of accident is evident. But some sectors of industry are no less acutely aware of the danger. On Clyde, for instance, some shipbuilders now close their yards two weeks over Christmas and the New Year rather than risk the consequences of drink safety at work.

The 1967 Road Safety Act emptied to deal with the road problem by putting an upper limit—analogue to the limit—on the amount of alcohol allowed to circulate



### WORLD DRINKING HABITS

ANNUAL CONSUMPTION — LITRES PER CAPITA

	Wine	Beer	Spirits	Total (In spirit equivalent)
Australia	9	228	1.8	32
Chile	115	30	1.0	35
Czechoslovakia	16	135	5.5	26.5
Finland	5	44	4.0	14
France	110	40	5.8	67
Japan	3	24	15.2*	45
Poland	6	4	8.5	17
Sweden	10	66†	8.4	18
Switzerland	40	5†	4.7	34
U.K.	4	99	2.0	15
Yugoslavia	30	32	24.8	43.5

\* Includes Sake. † Includes strong beer. ‡ Includes cider. The figures are based on WHO data and provide only a rough comparison, since in some countries much alcohol is produced at home, or clandestinely.

through a driver's brain. The limit of 80 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood was set on the basis of scientific evidence from various quarters, including British Medical Association statistics showing that at only 60 milligrams the driver's chances of being involved in an accident were twice as great as when he had drunk no alcohol.

Studies by Professor James Payne at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, in which volunteers comfortably seated in an armchair but wired up to a battery of instruments are invited to partake of the liquor of their choice, show that performance begins to deteriorate at blood alcohol levels as low as 30 milligrams.

The scientific basis of the 1967 Act has withstood some powerful and ingenious assaults by defence lawyers to exploit loopholes and flaws. But a complication recently came to light when it began to be recognised that many medicines which can be bought in any chemist's shop are laced—sometimes quite richly—with alcohol.

In a widely reported case last year, a 43-year-old woman with a temperance upbringing, who claimed never to have touched alcohol in her life, was found to have all the signs of chronic alcoholism. It transpired that she had grown addicted to gripe water, to "help her nerves," and when discovered was downing six bottles a day.

Dr. David Bailey, lecturer in medical chemistry at the Welsh School of Pharmacy in Cardiff, who studies drug-alcohol interactions, was asked to measure the alcohol content of proprietary medicines, from gripe waters to tonics and elixirs. Even the innocent gripe waters turn out to have alcohol contents ranging from 3.1 per cent. (Johnson's) to 9 per cent. (Calmic). For comparison, most beers and ciders lie between 2 and 5 per cent. and most wines from 10 to 12 per cent.

But, compared with gripe waters some of the elixirs, liniments and tonics turn out to be pretty stiff drinks. Metatone contains 10 per cent. alcohol, Gee's Liniment 17.2 per cent., Tabassan Elixir 20 per cent., and Congreve's Balsamic Elixir an astonishing 28 per cent. In contrast, sherry and port have about 20 per cent. alcohol, whisky and gin 30-35 per cent., and Green Chartreuse over 50 per cent.

Of medicines assayed by Dr. Bailey, two-thirds contained appreciable amounts of alcohol, with several of the elixirs approaching 30 per cent. But only 17 of the bottles were labelled to indicate any alcohol present; and in only one case—the elixir Labiton—was there a warning that because of the alcohol (28.5 per cent.) patients should not exceed the stated dose.

Why do so many proprietary medicines contain so much alcohol? To "ensure that the

product has a satisfactory shelf-life." Lord Wells-Pestell assured the House of Lords in a debate last summer. Unacknowledged on that occasion was the fact that it also dilutes the capillaries, inducing euphoria—a warm glow of wellbeing. In tonics—the main purpose of which is to stimulate the appetite—the high alcohol content combined with a bitters will have much the same effect as a pink gin or two before lunch.

One man who takes the science of alcohol seriously is Dr. Herbert Chalke, a former chief medical officer of health for Camberwell, and the founder and for the past 11 years editor of the *Journal of Alcoholism*. Dr. Chalke got started by putting a classified advertisement in *The Times*, which brought a swift offer of cash from a Scottish trust backed by distillery money.

From the journal developed the Medical Council on Alcoholism in London, which funds research to the tune of £20,000 a year. According to Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir Dick Caldwell, its executive director, both the Brewers' Society and the Robertson Foundation (Scottish) have been generously subsidising the work of the MCA. "They are happy to support any work that tries to get to the bottom of alcoholism," he says.

### Alcoholic

No one is more aware of the dismally poor public image of alcoholism than Dr. Chalke and Admiral Caldwell. Yet according to one famous medical scientist and author, Dr. Alex Comfort, "basically anyone whose behaviour is altered by drinking in a way deleterious to himself or others is an alcoholic."

Admiral Caldwell prefers the term, "alcohol problem"—but he believes that one drinker in ten has an alcohol problem. And he has no doubt that the problem is increasing and is "almost explosive" in some parts of Scotland. Dr. Chalke editorialises about the many ways it impinges on others: hooliganism, vandalism, wife and child beating, road accidents, train crashes.

It is not just the poor public image, however, that has discouraged the MCA from making public appeals for research funds. Admiral Caldwell admits frankly that despite all the research that has been done—in the U.S. especially, although the U.S. liquor industry is "now taking much more interest"—it is hard to point to one piece of research that has ever had a dramatic effect on the alcohol problem.

But even if science—whether by studying people with an "alcohol problem" or by feeding whisky to white mice—has failed to shed much light on the central problem of some people's incompatability with mankind's favourite drug, let me pass on two valuable bits of advice I was given once by a professor knowledgeable socially as well as professionally about alcohol. One is that the better the quality of the wine, whisky or brandy—in general, the longer it's aged—the lower the risk of a hangover. The chemistry of ageing converts toxic impurities into less toxic, more aromatic ingredients.

The other bit of advice is that if you have reached the stage of missing your drinks, you've already had more than enough.

## Swiss leave

BY NORRIS WILLATT IN LUGANO

OSE TO one-third of all workers in Switzerland now are some system of flexible working hours, by which, outside a called core time in mid-morning and mid-afternoon, they can attend their work place, they and not the management, please, provided always 7 put in a minimum number of hours each week or month. The peak work times are between a.m. and 12 noon, and from p.m., though with variations in the pattern.

Swiss employers seem to have opted the system with enthusiasm, and with the accord they employ about 30 per cent. of the latter now have choice in their working hours, according to Herr Heinz Allenspach, Director of the Central Office of Swiss Employers' Associations (the equivalent of the I.L.O. in a study published by Geneva.

Many firms in West Germany, are flexible working was first reduced on a significant scale the firm of Messerschmitt-Kow-Blohm, GmbH., in 1967, also adopted the system: it estimates made in the 1970s, when about 2 per cent. of the total workforce

was involved, that as much as 50 per cent. would be by 1975, seem to have been over-optimistic. In France, a study group appointed by the French Government has made recommendations on the subject. Private initiatives have led to programmes of flexible working in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, the Benelux countries, Italy, Spain, and also in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan.

### Advantages

Sufficient experience has now been gained with the system, and sufficient scientific study devoted to it, says Herr Allenspach, to have established it as "more than a fashionable gimmick; within a short space of time it has established itself as a technique whose advantages and drawbacks merit impartial examination." Advantages to workers lie in greater freedom, adjustment of routine and the individual's own life style, the end to checks on punctuality and, it is said, a better atmosphere at work.

Advantages for employers include higher productivity, reduced

labour turnover, less overtime, less waste of working time, the charging to the employee instead of the employer of any unavoidable delay in getting to work and improved management. On this last point, allowing the employees more freedom as to when they come to work calls for better organisation of work, and more delegation of responsibility.

Among the drawbacks of the system for workers are, outstandingly, that it reverses the trend to doing away with time clocks in the factory, as part of a general process of giving blue-collar workers equal status with white-collar ones. With flexible working, some mechanical method of recording is considered desirable (some employers, however, work with an "honour" system of reporting); and this not only means the re-introduction of it in the factory, but also the extension of it to cover white-collar workers, who previously were exempt. This can cause discontent and friction.

In the case of employers, the main drawback is that of extra expense, both to introduce and to install the system and the necessary controls; and also on overheads, since the effect is gener-

ally to extend the working day, by as much as 25-30 per cent., with consequent higher costs for heating, lighting, operation of the telephone service, and so on. Difficulties for management can arise if some workers, from the nature of their jobs, still remain on fixed hours, so that they feel themselves underprivileged.

### Positive

Herr Allenspach indicates that, on the whole, experience with flexible working has been positive, including for the national economies of the countries involved. Some of the advantages have included higher productivity; an improvement in recruitment, especially among married women, for whom the system is especially convenient; and a reduction in labour turnover. Indeed, advantages have been a reduction in the pressure on communications infrastructure in urban communities; and less wear and tear on the nerves of workers who travel to and from their jobs by car, and no longer have to meet deadlines.

Herr Allenspach: Flexible Working Hours. International Labour Office. Fr.Sw.17.50.

# Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

## DATA PROCESSING

### Keeps the words flowing

A FULLY equipped revision typewriter with dynamic memory and off-line magnetic tape storage has been put on the market by Ultronic Data Systems at a price of just under £3,000—the company claims that this is 40 per cent. cheaper than the nearest dynamic memory competitor. Lease terms will be under £55 per month.

Called the UDS Scribona 90, the machine is equipped with a single element typewriter, Pica typeface, a 5,000 character, 100 address location working store with search speed of 800 kilobytes per second, tape cassette read-write unit, and full edit facilities.

The range of options includes 12-pitch spacing, automatic tab memory, double track magnetic head for cassettes (doubling the off-line storage), and a tractor plus paper stand for continuous stationery.

The company has also improved some of its models further up the range and arranged them so that the purchaser need only buy features he really needs. More from Ultronic Data Systems, 3, Jefferson Way, Thame, Oxon, OX9 3SU (084421 3151).

### IBM mini in a few weeks

IBM is expected to launch its 5100 minicomputer in Europe within the first three months of 1976.

First released in America in September the 5100 is reputed to have originated within IBM Canada and took less than 18 months to develop and bring to market.

On the U.S. market, it is now thought to be selling well above IBM expectations, the 5100 is a fifty pound weight portable mini-



The UDS Scribona 90 fully-equipped revision typewriter with automatic memory and magnetic tape storage.

computer with a built in video display. It can have up to 64K of MOSFET technology main memory in 16K segments, with an access time of the order of 350 nanoseconds. Add on memory comes in 206Kb of magnetic tape cartridge built by IBM under a license from Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing.

The 5100, with printer and 64K, is on the U.S. market at less than \$20,000. Among its more interesting features are a simple error reporting system, and two interpreters, one for BASIC, the other for APL.

Both interpreters are loaded into MOSFET ROMs, each of 48K bits. The BASIC interpreter is said to be compatible with the IBM System 3, the APL interpreter with System 370. It should

be emphasised that the interpreters are not hard wired but programmed, and that the program is changeable only by IBM. The 5100 has 5 communications capability, and an adaptor makes it possible for the systems with which it is compatible to treat it as if it were an IBM 2741 terminal.

It comes with a set of routines on tape cartridges, which cover applications in statistics, mathematics and business. What is particularly interesting is that while all the routines are available in BASIC, the business routines are not available in APL. The reason is thought to be that while the 5100's speed would be quite slow, faced with any sizeable APL problem, it would still compete with System 370, the machines on which

IBM's APL capability is at its best. IBM has it seems no wish to turn the 5100 into a machine which would take any of the load of its 370's.

Essentially, the 5100 is a problem-solving mini. It is not the first in its field.

Its two main competitors, neither of which has an APL capability, come from Wang Laboratories and Hewlett Packard.

However, at least two other major competitors are known to be entering the field, both with cheaper machines, one of which is aimed much more clearly at the commercial market. Industry sources differ as to who is to launch them, but one is believed to be under wraps at Univac and to be code-named Acorn.

## MATERIALS

### Lacquered for quality finish

PRODUCING over 40m. record sleeves a year, the Tinsley Robor Group, Churchill Industrial Estate, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (TN11 5PX) (08903 5381), has installed what is believed to be the country's first "liquid lamination" plant.

A monomer lacquer is applied to the printed sheet and polymerised by ultraviolet radiation, which dries the lacquer almost instantaneously. The resultant finish is stated to be superior to any currently available varnish coating, and to be comparable with film lamination.

Advantages of the process are that air pollution is reduced, and scrubbing reagents. A further advantage is that working speeds are practicable without impairing the print quality and there is no penetration of the printing inks. Cheaper papers can be used with the saving resulting from reduced processing and handling, and printed matter comes off the press dry and ready to be cut and folded.

The machinery was supplied by Steinhilber Beado, Rodford House, Suite 35, 17, High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex (01-572 0901), and the special varnish by Donald Macpherson and Co., 3, Quays, Tower Hill, London, E.C.3 (01-628 1735).

## METALWORKING

### Dresses and polishes welds

IN THE Russian journal "Welding Production" (Vol. 22, No. 3, 1975) the development of a mechanised wire brush for dressing welded joints is reported.

The wires of the brush are held by an adjustable clamp, so that brush density can be varied and the brush used for both dressing and cutting (that is, removing weld spatters and splashes). In the prototype version, the diameter of the brush is 150mm, width 15-20mm, stickout 15mm, and carbon steel wire diameter 0.56mm. The brush was tested with peripheral speeds from 1.5 to 6.5 metres/second, a longitudinal feed of 250 to 1,000 mm/min, and using brush surface pressures from 60 to 90 kg.

Used for cutting, a layer 0.1 to 0.25mm thick was removed in one pass, in the form of micro-shavings. Operating surfaces of the brush heated to 60-80 deg. C after the finished oil is returned to use. Chemical additives are joined to 300-500 deg. C. Used to dress (clean) a weld, the spatter was removed and bright metal revealed. The brush reached 30-60 deg. C the weld surface 100-150 deg. C.

## NORTH SEA OIL

### Analysing topsides loadings

BELIEVED TO be a first in terms of its size and complexity, a North Sea contract has been awarded to Structural Dynamics (Offshore), 19, Archers Road, Southampton SO1 2LS (0703 38737)—an associate of Acoustic Technology.

The contract, understood to be worth in excess of £70,000, has been awarded by Linumus, and will cover a study of the dynamics of the complete topsides of platforms in the Ninian Field, and will involve dynamic (vibration) analysis, including dynamic loading arising from equipment, and environmental factors such as wind and wave loading.

A final detailed report will show how expenditure can be controlled and controlled. Cost benefit, claims PA can be between 20 and 40 per cent. per annum. More from 2, Albert Gate London SW1X 7JU (01-235 0601).

## POLLUTION

### Finding the best type of scrubber

TO ANALYSE the pollutants in gases exhausted to air, Plastic Constructions, Tyseley Industrial Estate, Seelys Road, Great Birmingham B11 2ST (021-773 4331), is operating a mobile test unit.

With the results obtained, the company says it is enabled to design and build optimum fume scrubbing plant to solve fume and odour problems. It is claimed to be the first full scale mobile test unit in the U.K.

Information is obtained on the highest attainable scrubbing efficiencies, power consumption, and scrubbing reagents. A special system which produces ozone for use as an oxidising agent—particularly useful in the removal of unpleasant odours—can be incorporated if required.

## PROCESSING

### Reclaims the oil

COST OF hydraulic and transmission oils can be cut by up to 75 per cent by recycling through equipment introduced by Delgany, Drummin Lodge, Delgany, Greystones, Co. Wick, low, Republic of Ireland. Made in Sweden, the unit, called Renol, has three parts—a drain funnel to receive the oil, a rubber bag reservoir holding 52 gallons, and a filtration unit capable of pumping 10 gallons/minute. The company says the oil holds less particles after the operation than when it is new. Only topping up oil is required after the filtered oil is returned to use. Chemical additives are supplied to return the viscosity to the correct level. The pump can be manual or electrically driven. The company is looking for U.K. area agents.

## INSTRUMENTS

### Accurate and fast calibration

PRECISION calibration of both digital and analogue electrical measuring instruments can be performed quickly using the 300 unit made by Rotek and marketed by Datron (Sales), East Dingley Lane, Sharncliffe Green, Gillingford, Surrey GU5 0TD (048 66 4135).

Available in manual or remotely programmable form, unit provides calibration facilities for ac and dc voltage, current and resistance. Typical accuracy figure is 0.005 per cent. for direct voltage. An optional wattmeter calibration is available. Other features include fast response and settling times, a long term stability of only ten parts per month and a deviation control with three deviation ranges. Optionally, percentage error readings on a digital display can be provided.

Datron estimates that it takes only 34 to 4 minutes to perform a full calibration of a typical digital multimeter using the manual version.

But it is not of course, quite as simple as that. For example, who in the organisation should communicate less, and on what subjects?

In any reasonable size of company this is bound to need some planning and analysis, and recently a number of computer and other consultancies have announced appropriate services. Latest of these is PA Management Consultants with its telephone audit and cost improvement service (FACIS).

There are two stages. First a PA consultant will discuss recent telephone and telex bills and make a broad review of the company's communications and business organisation. If all agree that it makes economic sense to continue, a detailed and systematic review of installed facilities will be made followed by a profile of telex and telephone messages using analysing equipment.

A final detailed report will show how expenditure can be controlled and controlled. Cost benefit, claims PA can be between 20 and 40 per cent. per annum. More from 2, Albert Gate London SW1X 7JU (01-235 0601).

By agreement between the Financial Times and the BBC, information from The Technical Page is available for use by the Corporation's External Services as source material for its overseas broadcasts.

**THORN**  
**AUTOMATION**  
Rugeley, Staffs, England  
Industrial control systems



# THE FINANCIAL TIMES

(Established 1888)

Incorporating THE FINANCIAL NEWS

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Telex: 888241/2. 883887

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1975

## New Jerusalem

BLAKE'S *Jerusalem* is a hymn that many of us may find ourselves singing with surprised gusto during the next few days, and one that deserves its popularity. The tune is rugged enough to withstand hard use; there are only four verses, which most people seem to know; and the sentiments expressed are almost universally acceptable. Those regular members of the congregation who are not immediately won over by the assumption that England is the proper place in which to build a new Jerusalem will welcome the recognition that something of the sort needs building here: while even occasional and sceptical members tend to be fascinated by the sound of the regulars calling for bows of burning gold and arrows of desire.

What such reactions have to do with Blake himself is questionable. Some conservatives might be disconcerted to learn how much he loathed established institutions, some radicals to find how hard he fought for the independence of the craftsman against the march of Progress.

### Childlike

Yet *Jerusalem* is a good hymn to sing around Christmas time, because of its childlike directness. The northern races have always found particularly dramatic the birth of a child in the dead time of the year. The drama may represent different things—to some people the continuity of life, to others, like the early Christians, the hope of change in society through a new birth. But a child is more than a symbol. The romantics of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, another time of collapsing institutions, tended to regard children as some people today regard primitive races—as so untainted by contact with the evils of civilised society as to be worth not only study but imitation.

The need to regain the simple outlook of children was preached constantly by Christ; and it is at Christmas still that many of us feel most deeply our inability to see and feel things with the innocent delight of children. Blake deliberately divided his early songs between those of Innocence and those of Experience, and many of them establish a deliberate contrast between a childlike and adult view of the same event. The contrast of the Lamb and the Tiger is the most striking; but

on the subject of children themselves we find, in Innocence,

"I have no name:  
I am but two days old."  
What shall I call thee?  
"I happy am,  
Joy is my name."  
Sweet joy befall thee,  
And the lullaby beginning:  
Sweet dreams, form a shade  
O'er my lovely infant's head;  
Sweet dreams of pleasant

By happy, silent moony beams  
In Experience, on the other hand, he wrote:  
My mother groan'd, my father wept;  
Into the dangerous world I leapt,  
Helpless, naked, piping loud:  
Like a fiend hid in a cloud.

### Two states

These songs of Innocence and Experience illustrate, according to Blake, two contrary states of the human soul. Obviously they are contrary, but are they also interchangeable? Can the innocent view, once lost, be regained? Blake's own history as a poet suggests that it is difficult to feel as rather than for a child once one is no longer a child oneself, but he would certainly have maintained that we should persevere in the attempt. His own life was one long attempt to preserve a childlike freshness of vision.

There are times when many of us long for such an ability. Yet Blake was an exceptional man, cut off from the conventional world for much of his life, a "holy fool" of the sort that is no more common or popular in our own times than his own. *Jerusalem* must have found its way into the hymn-book through some lucky accident.

Those who cannot hope to emulate Blake, yet miss the innocent force of childhood, may fall back on Wordsworth, a poet who has not yet been taken up either by churches or pop groups because, unlike Blake, he became outwardly respectable as well as inwardly disappointed in middle age. Yet Wordsworth, unlike most of his contemporaries, knew of Blake, and said that he preferred the madness of Blake to the sanity of Byron or Scott. Having spent a vivid childhood in the Lake District, he was able to feel and express, perhaps more keenly than any other English poet, the sense of loss caused by the passing of childhood and of close contact with natural things, which is the more nearly felt at times like Christmas when it seems to be half recaptured.

Sotheby's and Christie's have much to be pleased about this Christmas. But they face some New Year challenges. A report by Antony Thorncroft



Left: cars under the hammer at a British Car Auctions sale in London. The group is beginning to apply its techniques to the fine arts world. Right: the traditional approach. A Modigliani reaches a record price at Christie's.



## When profits are a fine art

THE major London fine art salerooms—Sotheby's, Christie's, and Phillips—this week reported their progress in the first three months of the auction house year, which gets underway in September. The results make fairly encouraging pre-Christmas reading.

Sotheby's, the largest operation of its type in the world, boosted its international turnover by 14 per cent to £33m. during the quarter; Christie's did even better, with a 24 per cent gain to £15.9m.; and Phillips has most to be proud of, with a 42 per cent increase between August and Christmas, included in an annual sales turnover of £13.25m. compared with £10.92m. in 1974.

The salerooms achieved these improvements against a background of unprecedented turmoil, including a "strike" by their most regular buyers, the antique dealers, and questions in the Commons about the pricing policies of Sotheby's and Christie's, which have now been referred to the Director of Fair Trading.

The main cause of controversy was the 10 per cent buyers' premium introduced by Sotheby's and Christie's at the start of the season. The salerooms justified this innovation by referring to their sharply falling profits, the existence of such a premium in many Continental countries, and the simultaneous though marginal reduction of their charge to sellers, to 10 per cent.

But the dealers did not take at all kindly to having to pay 10 per cent more than the hammer price for their purchases, and there were a few rather ineffective boycotts. In the end the antique trade realised that it could not do without the salerooms. But there has been a pool of ill-will towards the "Big Two," and a corresponding wave of support for Phillips, which reduced the sellers' premium in line with its competitors but took the gamble of not introducing a charge for

buyers. So far the gamble looks like paying off, as the 42 per cent gain in turnover demonstrates. But Mr. Christopher Weston, managing director of Phillips, is not getting over-excited about the extra turnover. "We need an additional £2.5m. a year, to stand still, with no rise in expenses," he says. For since Phillips decided on its policy of low profit, high turnover, there have been or are threatened substantial cost increases outside its control, such as the planned rise in National Insurance contributions from employers. Even so, Phillips has some substantial achievements to its credit and, with luck, is poised to join the saleroom giants.

### Regional centres

The introduction of the buyers' charge has encouraged him to speed up his plans, and he has now held three sales at Somerset in Somerset, one of which managed a turnover of £231,000, and is currently negotiating for a Yorkshire auction house. He is also hiring experts from Sotheby's and Christie's.

Mr. Wickins hopes for a £1m. turnover in 1975-76 and one of £5m. in two years' time, with the regional centres disposing of local antiques while a central saleroom near London Airport handles the big stuff. He insists on cutting through the mystique surrounding works of art, believing that buyers want a wide range of goods at the most competitive prices while sellers just want cash—and quickly. So he gives vendors (for a small charge) money before their antiques have actually appeared in the saleroom. By staying outside Mayfair he can afford to print lavish catalogues; by using the same accountancy methods that look after his cars he can speed the cash payments.

It is hard to imagine British Car Auctions rivaling the established London salerooms, but it is a straw in the wind. The fine art market has expanded very rapidly in the last decade—perhaps too rapidly—and the rate of change is greater than even in the past. Sotheby's and Christie's both now have offices in London to look after the (mainly) cheaper antiques, and they also organise many more sales abroad. What happens at Sotheby's in Bond Street

and Christie's in King Street is now only part of the picture.

This is especially true of Sotheby's, which, as Sotheby Parke Bernet, has auction rooms in New York, Los Angeles, and Amsterdam; organises regular sales at Monte Carlo and in Switzerland; and has offices as far away as Tehran. This season, for the first time, it seems certain that Sotheby's American turnover will exceed its sales in the U.K. In fact, in the opening three months sales in London disposed of goods valued at £14.5m. against £15.2m. in 1974, while in the U.S. there was a sharp rise from £12.6m. to £16.5m.

Sotheby's, in which the Rothschild Investment Trust has a 20 per cent stake, is quick to point out that it is not sending items to the U.S. for dispersal. It is just that, as the U.K. becomes comparatively less wealthy, the important collections stem from foreigners, and are likely to fetch the best prices in their country of origin. In addition, the decline in the value of the pound, the Wealth Tax, and the salerooms own buyers' premium have dimmed the attraction of the U.K., and the gloomy headlines about the state of the nation deterred some wealthy people from entrusting their treasures here. London is still the centre for the most expensive markets, such as Old Masters and Impressionists, but silver and jewellery sales, in particular, have excelled elsewhere in recent months.

### Getting better

But things may be getting better again. Christie's held a very successful Impressionist sale earlier this month which brought in £1,858,787, with record prices for a Modigliani and a John Singer Sargent. This sale included pictures from the collection of the late Fletcher Jones of Los Angeles, and these, plus the contribution of items from Swinton House, underlined

the buyers' premium has undoubtedly soured the atmosphere, although the dealers are now looking towards the Director of Fair Trading for some redress. They are the more upset because the last year has not been good for the antique trade generally. Sotheby's and Christie's have agreed to review the premium at the end of the season, but they show no sign of voluntarily rescinding it, and, indeed, Mr. P. J. R. Spira, who looks after the financial more long-term losses than side at Sotheby's and maintains

### Setting up shop

There are already reports of sponsored investment trusts in works of art on the lines of unit trusts, and of the saleroom actually purchasing items certain markets, thus acting as vendor and auctioneer at the same time. In addition, the Christie's that now scurries through the country setting up shop in likely provincial centres such as Norwich or Hereford a few days to pass judgment on the local treasures, may pre-empt the appearance of raiders, or if their intentions are of a best.

The fact is that auction houses are business operations handling the rare and the beautiful, the current climate they cannot afford to forget the commercial considerations but, as they strive for a safer margin against more opposition and publicity. And since this is the industry which is based on confidence and historical sentiment, the necessary search for a firm financial base could produce more long-term losses than short-term gains.

## Continued long-term unemployment

THE LEVEL of unemployment always responds sluggishly to the changes in the state of the economy, and so there can be little surprise at the sad fact that the rise in unemployment has continued virtually unchecked this month, despite recent signs that the recession in activity has reached its low point. The level, after allowing for seasonal factors, is now getting on for 200,000 worse than the Chancellor seems to have hoped during the summer, and seems only too likely to pass the one and a quarter million mark before it reaches a peak.

The fact that the labour force is still being reduced at a rate of about 2 per cent a year at a time when production is stabilising, albeit at a low level, means, of course, that productivity is performing relatively well; in that respect, the present recession is repeating the pattern of the two previous ones. British employers are taking the only way open to them at a time of low trade and even tighter margins, and taking serious action to reduce the over-manning which has been endemic in British industry for so many years.

### Humane impulses

The Government's short-term response, faced with figures which many Labour supporters will find as "appalling" as does Mr. Michael Foot, has been to try to slow the process down and conceal part of the problem for the time being, by postponing the economy measures in the nationalised industries, offering subsidies to private employers who will defer redundancies, and creating a certain number of jobs. The humane impulses be-

hind such policies are understandable—as are the political motives. Equally understandable, though far more dangerous, is the reaction of the trade unions, resisting by all available means even those economies which the Government has been persuaded to sanction—most recently in the Chrysler rescue, though if this should founder on trade union intransigence, the results would on the whole be salutary. The danger is that these short-term manoeuvres may distract attention from the real problem.

### Emerging

The true message of the successive peaks in unemployment is that the real British problem is at last emerging from concealment. British industry, if efficiently run, does not require the whole of the available labour force. It is in this respect, rather than in capital per man, that investment in this country has been too low; but the British practice of concealing the problem behind a screen of over-manning has been largely responsible for the problem.

The sad paradox which is taking so many years to learn, is that the over-manning must be tackled—which means that unemployment must get progressively worse—before the conditions for profitable investment can be restored. The release of surplus labour could create the conditions for rapid growth in this country, as it has in others: the pool of unemployed and under-employed is a potential resource, as much as the North Sea. But we are a long way yet from learning this hopeful message from bad figures.

## MEN AND MATTERS

### Smurfit picks up Creation's pieces

Although it is Christmas it is not too far to New Year, and therefore it may be apposite to finish Ireland's Creation saga, which I have been covering at regular intervals over the past few months, by reporting that parts of the group at least, are rising Phoenix-like from the ashes. Creation is the Dublin-based publishing and printing group which numbered among its publications *Business and Finance*—the leading Irish business magazine—plus the two Irish women's magazines.

Creation was the brainchild of Hugh McLaughlin who subsequently dreamt up the idea of the now highly successful *Sunday World* newspaper—an idea which he was unable to sell to Creation. The company, already in financial difficulties, was further embarrassed when McLaughlin decided to withdraw the £850,000 a year printing contract for the *Sunday World* from Creation. Subsequently, Creation went into receivership.

Now, Michael Smurfit, managing director of Jefferson Smurfit, who had tried originally to bail out the whole of Creation, has gone a long way towards picking up the pieces. Jefferson Smurfit is one of Ireland's biggest companies, with a London quote, and specialising in printing and packaging.

Mind you, Smurfit has had to do a few deals along the way. The most sought-after magazine in the group is *Business and Finance*, whose editor, Bill Ambrose, was off his own bat, proposing a consortium of leading Irish businessmen to rescue that paper—falling any other acceptable solution. He appears

to have come out of the deal exceedingly well, since under the new regime he has 40 per cent of B and F for a pro-rata contribution on the believed £20,000 which Smurfit has paid for the magazine.

The two women's magazines which Smurfit has acquired—*Woman's Way* and *Woman's Choice*—are equally highly regarded in their field as is the business magazine. But again Smurfit ends up with control—but less than 100 per cent of the equity. In this venture the partner is Kevin Kelly, of Vesey Publications. The company publishes the monthly magazine *Image*. The bland Press release yesterday announcing all these developments says that Smurfit's group has acquired "a substantial equity participation in Vesey," without disclosing the actual figure.

### Earthy

After platform shoes, the anti-heel. The "Earth shoe," with sales of \$25m. a year in the United States, is coming to Europe. Retail outlets have started in Munich and Paris and new ones are planned for Brussels, Zurich, other Continental centres—and perhaps Britain.

The Earth shoe, or negative-beel shoe, has the heel lower than the toe. Its inventor is a 70-year-old Danish yoga enthusiast, Anne Kalso. According to the American shoe producer Kalso Systemet, "she began to observe the noble carriage of the Indians with their foot imprints in the sand, and it was confirmed to her that when man walks in soft earth the weight of his body is sunk low into the heels." Anne Kalso had a primitive sandal made with aid from a Portuguese shoemaker, developed and refined design and tested models "on walking



trips of five hundred miles and more."

As well as the shoes, sold only at privately-owned Earth shoe stores in a range of styles from moccasins to "ragged boots," there are Earth socks—"so your toes can spread, wiggle and walk in a whole new cushioned, liberated way"—as well as cottage-industry Earth hats and scarves and even T-shirts.

Not only is the Earth line now entering the European market, it seems likely that production might be set up in Ireland. Just the thing for keeping a noble carriage in the peat.

### Disparities

A company like Barclays Bank International is in a good position to contribute to arguments about the relative rewards for working in various countries. In his statement with the group's annual report, Anthony Tuke, the chairman, presents an analysis both of salary averages in Britain and in the bank's

branches abroad and, perhaps of greater significance, the disparity between take-home pay here and overseas.

First, on salary level (with the important reminder that more routine work is done in Britain, Africa, and the West Indies), the annual average cost to the bank in Australia, Italy and Switzerland is over £7,000; in Belgium, Holland and France, about £6,000; in Germany, just over £5,000; the U.S. £4,300; Hong Kong, £4,100; Britain, about £3,000; South Africa, £2,400; and finally Kenya, Nigeria and West Indies, all a little under £2,000.

The net pay comparisons, hedged about with cautions about different levels of staff in various places and the vagaries of exchange rate fluctuations, have been applied to those high up the scale. The highest and lowest of BBI's examples show that for those earning between £10,001 and £15,000 gross, the U.K. take-home is £7,000 on average and abroad, £5,600; between £40,001 and £50,000, the U.K. take-home is £13,400 and abroad, £11,900. "One must in fairness underline the fact implicit in the figures that we in Britain are not quite so far out of line on average as is sometimes supposed, except at the top end," Tuke says. Nevertheless, he adds that the figures emphasise the problem of transferring staff to this country and emphasise the growing problem of rewarding good management performance in Britain.

### Too busy

Oxford Street shop window sign: "Owing to heavy pressure of business this shop will be closed on Mondays until further notice."

Observer

## "Spread some happiness this Christmas"

Reginald Bossmquet

"If you and I could look in at some 'homes' this Christmas we would find a big contrast to the happiness we expect in our own: Old people completely alone, and feeling all the lonelier 'because it's Christmas'. Some with no home at all, or without food in countries ravaged by hunger or disaster. Our Christmas becomes a real Christmas by sharing some happiness with those who need it most.

Here are some of the things you can send the lonely and the hungry."

Just £5—the cost of a modest turkey—will give a few ounces of rice every day for a year to supplement the diet of one desperately hungry old man or woman. £25 is a real help towards another Day Centre for lonely old people at home. £2 sends a Christmas meal for 10 old people who never get enough to eat. £100 provides a simple house overseas in your name. £150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you on the Founders' Plaque of a new Day Centre.

If you believe in a happy New Year please send hope to someone who has none of your blessings. Every day matters to old people in dire need. Please send quickly to—The Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room FT7, 3 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.



# Three major roads to saving lives

IT IS NO use pretending that this is going to be a particularly merry Christmas. I suspect that many people will find it difficult to cast away the everyday sense of gloom that has become so commonplace, just in order to create a false sense of cheerfulness over the next few days. Those who can manage the trick of the best of luck to you. As for the rest, I offer no excuse for the holiday season with a grim and not at all pleasant proposition. It is topical because we are accustomed to totting up the figures—for motor accidents—over holiday weeks, but in fact the killing and maiming goes on all year round, relentlessly.

Most Governments like to proclaim that their first concern is for the protection of human life. The present Labour Government could demonstrate this concern by finding Parliamentary time for a determined effort to reduce the number of motor accidents. Three simple changes in the law would almost certainly save thousands of lives within a few years of their enactment—all that is required is the necessary ministerial Prime Ministerial? will.

The three changes would be:

- 1—a new, permanent, set of new speed limits designed to promote safety as much as to conserve fuel;
- 2—a law making it compulsory to wear seat belts; and
- 3—a new, far tougher, law on driving after drinking.

## Not easy

None of these would be politically easy. The motorists' bibles are loud and active. We do not yet quite grow out of a feeling that there is something brave, or masculine, about driving very fast. There is an impression that motoring

offences, the more serious of which risk the lives of others, are somehow not really criminal; for this reason, it is assumed that speed-maniacs should be given at least a sporting chance in any contest with the law.

Many resent the idea of any interference with the "right" to drive as quickly as they please, in a vehicle of any kind, in a condition of near-saturation if they choose. There is enough State control over everyday life as it is, they will protest; extending the law further into the motorists' preserve would be an intrusion into personal freedom. The best response to this is that the rule of the road is one area in which more regulation is both justifiable and necessary.

For the car is arguably the most lethal man-made killer yet invented. It has certainly killed more persons than the atom bomb.

In its annual report this summer, the Medical Research Council noted that accidents—including accidents in the home—could be described as "the modern epidemic." They are the commonest cause of death up to the age of 40, and the third commonest cause, after disease and cancer, of death during working life. Road traffic accidents are now the most frequent cause of accidental mortality and morbidity, says the Council, adding that "approximately 50 per cent of all deaths in young men aged 15-24 in developed countries now result from road accidents."

It is for this reason that the three changes in the law listed above should be put through Parliament as quickly as possible. Take each in turn.

Speed limits are still too high. The 70 mph limit on motorways is greater than is allowed in

## HOW SPEED LIMITS WORK IN BRITAIN

LIMIT	SPEEDS		ACCIDENTS
	Before	After	
30 MPH			
1948-53, in 44 places	52	46	-10
1956, in towns in Ireland	59	16	-24
1964-5, in 5 places: special enforcement	40	26	-25
40 MPH			
1956-6, Outer London	39	24	-19
50 MPH			
1961-4, Summer week-ends	32	17	-27
70 MPH			
1965			
Motorways	29	14	-20
Dual Carriage	14	6	-24
Single Carriage	3	2	-34
EMERGENCY			
50 mph, Nov. '73	49	5	-35
to March, '74	95	75	

many other countries, including the U.S. It is unnecessary: the right speed to choose as the limit is about 5 mph below what most motorists would accept as reasonable. At the time of the first emergency 50 mph limit last year this might have been 60 mph—but the new Labour Government threw away that opportunity (and surely put many lives at risk) when it quickly restored 70 mph as part of its "back to normal" programme. To-day something nearer to 65 mph is probably about the lowest workable figure. On most other out-of-town roads the limit should be 50 mph, permanently.

Those who doubt the value of such curbs should study the figures. The year after the 30 mph limit for urban areas was introduced in March, 1935, there was an immediate fall of 15 per cent in fatal accidents and one of 10 per cent in all accidents. The number killed did not return to the 1934 total in peacetime until 1964—when there was four times as much traffic.

The table shows the results of other speed limits in Britain. All figures except the estimates for the effect of the emergency 50 m.p.h. limit on motorways are taken from a table accompanying an article in "Traffic Speeds and Casualties" (Odense University Press, Denmark, 1975) by Barbara E. Sabey, of the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory. The 1972 annual report of that laboratory, which is one of the

most able of its kind, gave other evidence following a review of "most of the world literature" on the effect of speed limits on road safety.

It found that the information from nearly every country showed that "in practice speed limits have nearly always led to immediate reductions in vehicle speeds and in average accident rates, and that there are now so many recorded results of this kind that alternative explanations can be discounted." Although there are still many complicating factors, this is probably true of the experience of Britain in the past couple of years, during most of which there has been a greater fall in the number of accidents than the decline in the amount of traffic could account for.

At the same time there has been an important change in the kind of accident that has taken place. There are fewer fatal casualties, and fewer serious casualties, which the course means that the proportion of slight injuries has increased. In the first half of this year, for example, the number of road deaths—2,860—was 8 per cent less than in the first half of 1974. Seriously injured casualties, at 35,500, were 6 per cent fewer. Slight casualties, at 110,500, increased by 3 per cent.

Speed limits cannot take all the credit. There is less traffic. Road users are more careful, and are driving more carefully, or less adventurously; the theory is that this is in the interest of saving petrol rather than the effect of official restrictions. Yet the early indications are that when all such factors have been discounted the limits have reduced speeds (average speeds have fallen since new limits were imposed last December) and have saved lives.

When the new limits were imposed as part of the energy-saving programme a few weeks ago the statutory instrument was opposed by Mr. Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley, who used the familiar motor lobby arguments with little effect. The best plan for 1976 would be a fresh Government review designed to produce permanent limits, based on the need to reduce accidents and designed accordingly, by the end of the year.

As a second part of a new strategy to increase the safety of all of us the Government should re-introduce the new law to make the wearing of seat belts compulsory. It is true that this may not be easy to enforce, and that some police forces are, for that reason, uneasy about it. It is also true that mechanical devices—such as the buzzer that used to screech until you fastened the belt on hired cars in the U.S.—are probably too irritating for most of us to accept. Fortunately, no such contraption is being proposed here.

Even so a law without doubt lead to a larger number of people wearing seat belts with a corresponding reduction in fatal accidents and serious injuries. Once again, the evidence is incontrovertible.

The Department of the Environment's official estimate is that belts worn by drivers and front-seat passengers in cars and light vans in 1974 prevented about 400 deaths and nearly 4,600 serious injuries. If all fitted belts had been worn, another 14,000 serious or fatal casualties would have been avoided. A law would not, of course, ensure that everyone would wear a belt on every journey, but it is reasonable to assume that a greater propor-

tion of people would wear belts if it was obligatory to do so than if it remained voluntary: if insurance companies took note of whether the law was being observed the effect would be even stronger.

## High cost

Some might say that it is not the business of Governments to intervene in a matter that mainly affects the safety of the individual who makes the decision. But Governments do try to reduce smoking—and car crashes usually involve others even if the absence of seat belts mostly damages those in the front seats. What is more, every accident involves a community cost; the current official figure is £30,000 per death. Accidents cost £700m. on this kind of reckoning last year and are expected to cost £800m. this year. The lower growth than the rate of general inflation is explained partly by the shift away from fatalities and serious casualties, and partly by the overall fall in accidents.

Finally, the Government should steel itself to introduce strong new drink and drive laws, as recommended by the recent report of the Blennerhassett Committee. The outcry when Mrs. Barbara Castle promoted the breathalyser law in 1966 is still remembered by all politicians, but there can be little doubt that she saved many lives by pressing ahead. The proportion of drivers killed in accidents whose bodies contained more than the permitted level of alcohol came to around 25 per cent in the years before 1967. In the first year after the breathalyser this figure was down to 15 per cent.

The trouble is that everyone is now so accustomed to the new law (and so adept at finding ways around it) that its power has worn off. To-day the position is worse than it was in 1967—about one-third of all drivers are found to have what is officially considered to be too much blood alcohol. On Saturday night this figure soars to 70 per cent, and the heaviest incidence is among young drivers.

A new law, changing the odds in favour of detection and conviction just a little back towards the police, could have the dramatic effect of the original breathalyser law; if so it would be well worth it. All the evidence suggests that this would happen: the Government should not hesitate.

All such laws add to the power of the State and for this reason should be treated with caution. Police concentration on motorists is rarely popular, even though—as the table shows—when a special effort at enforcement of a 30 mph speed limit was made in 1964-65 there was a 25 per cent fall in accidents. Yet this does seem to be a part of our society in which the communal force is best applied to curb individual jungle instincts.

I do not write this as an anti-motorist: the psychological value of the freedom bestowed by personal transportation is a boom that should not, indeed could not, be denied. But the trouble with the speed maniacs and motor-car worshippers of our world is that they do not recognise reasonable limits to this freedom. The proper job of a responsible Government is to establish such boundaries and draw them in favour of the physical safety of the citizen. They should get to it straight after Christmas.

## Letters to the Editor

### BSC's economic efficiency

From The Industrial Development Officer, City of South Glamorgan.

Sir—Mr. George Ashton, president of the British Independent Steel Producers Association has put his finger on a most important point of the ed for increasingly flexible production plant in the steel industry. He is quite right (December 18), saying that "the present condition undermined the advantages of the small works over large integral works. The small works had the flexibility to cater at different demand levels closely attuned to the changing needs of customers."

It is not only that we seem to be moving into an era of more frequent swings between the top and bottom of the British trade cycle. It is also that the main eluting industries in Britain are becoming less predictable in behaviour, irrespective of the tide of the trade cycle. The current agonies of the motor-car industry and the coming agonies of the shipbuilding industry are a major case in point.

In these circumstances, British Steel Corporation's strategy of concentrating production on five major integrated works whose take-away point is inevitably shut and shutting down all its other works is increasingly questionable. If one cannot rely on any base-load demand from a motor and shipbuilding industries, then these big steelworks are going to be in serious trouble. BSC's current reaction of this, of switching orders from its works to newer works to process the throughput on the few works is reasonable as a short-term strategy, since the few works will obviously have lower variable costs. The new works, however, will also have higher fixed costs, such as depreciation, and BSC will learn from the current session not to depend too heavily on the mammoth works which must have high loading all long production runs to be economic. Japanese steelworks, these giant orders depend on the Japanese motor-car and shipbuilding industries. There is no chance of BSC's steelworks being filled in the new way.

Some of BSC's recent statements (for example Page One of November 17) on the rationale of switching orders from "old efficient" plants to "new efficient" plants, indicate a view that it has now fossilised. Views around the 1972 strategy. Brand new plant with its fixed and low variable costs comes more inefficient in the economic sense if it has to live in an increasingly variable market. By the same token, increasing your proportionate dependence on new high-roughput works, when your old market is becoming increasingly unpredictable, is in itself an overall strategy. Is it too much to hope that it is of the "ill-wind" benefits of financial catastrophe to be suffered by BSC the current annual year will be to focus attention more on economic efficiency than engineering efficiency?

Morgan, Daily Headquarters, Airport Road, Cardiff.

### Semantics of bankruptcy

From Mr. P. O'Brien.

Sir—It was disappointing to read Colin Jones article (December 15) "No Network Ape View." Mr. Sidney Weighell did a public service by bringing attention to bear on the logical result of the railway action and its excessive wage increases.

When he called Mr. Crosland a liar he meant that Mr. Crosland was aware that logically BR network should be reduced by two-thirds by 1981, and indeed if present economic trends continue this should be so reduced by the eventual bankruptcy of BR.

Mr. Crosland meant that Mr. Weighell was speaking code words in that he assumed that the present Government was swayed by logic and also that it would ensure that everyone in Britain went bankrupt before British Rail.

I write because the Socialist semantics may not be appreciated by some of your readers.

P. O'Brien, 2, Oakfields, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

### No Japanese commitment

From The Director, Paris, Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Sir—We have read with interest the December 19 report, by Terry Dods-Worth on the concord reached by Japanese motor and British and Japanese industries as to a future rate of Japanese car sales in the U.K.

With all high respect to those who conferred with us in London, and indeed to your correspondent, we must disagree with the view that "Japanese have made a significant concession yesterday in their talks with British motor industry leaders

### Capital tax

From Mr. S. Scammell.

Sir—There seems to be a general assumption in the Press that Mr. Jay's modified recommendations (December 11) for a capital tax (let us call it by its right name) have lost their teeth. This is far from the case.

On assumptions of a 15 per cent rate of tax with permitted set-off of the 15 per cent investment-surcharge on income arising from an investment showing a 10 per cent return can hope to pay maximum income-tax plus capital tax out of income earning all net income and capital (although subject of course to the inroads of inflation). Since the tax-payer at the top of the range has for years had a negligible income from such an investment he is no worse off. Those invested at lower return however will have to think again. It means that if times of "normal" interest-rates equity investment will be impracticable for the capital tax payers. The effect on the market could be considerable, even if their share in national equity-investment is only small.

The owner of property, on which the capital tax will be allowed to accumulate as a mortgage, will in effect have his freehold confiscated in exchange for a lease of about 25 years, that being about the term in which the "capital tax" mortgage will accumulate at current interest to 100 per cent. The exact term depends of course upon the rate of compound interest that the Government exacts: the above assumes a rate of 7 per cent, with no tax-rebate (since a figure linked to tax-rebate would lead to the irrational result that the "lease" for the owner paying income-tax at top rate would be larger than that for the owner paying at lower rates).

If values appreciate, the term of 25 years is not much affected, since the capital tax would increase proportionately with the gross market-value whereas the 100 per cent would be reached at a level "gross market-value less gains tax" (if as seems likely capital tax would be collected each year on that 30 per cent of the appreciation of the asset, it is in fact according to the owner at all). This lease, since it merely carries the right to receive an income for 25 years that net after income-tax at top rate (but free of investment surcharge) will on most estates be in the region of 0.25 per cent—0.5 per cent, return on market-value, will evidently be worth (according to the rate of discount placed upon the deferred payments) round about 5 per cent of the value of the freehold, i.e. about £30 per acre on a let farm. Since such owners, even after the capital tax has brought down market-values, will be able to sell at considerably more than the figure they are clearly likely to do so: the new landlords would be, presumably, the tax-free pension funds.

In effect, the capital tax would thus fall only on those who, for whatever reason, lend their funds to industry (agricultural or otherwise) at a low rate. The Government, so busy in giving industry a capital-taxuscul at one end at the expense of the public, would by this measure inevitably be forcing the private investor to draw it out at the other.

S. Scammell, East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wilt.

### When too few run too much

From Mr. Roy Malby.

Sir—Mr. Tether has the mail soundly on the head in his article "When too few run too much" (December 12).

I had been about to write to you to lament that Government should be appointing to senior management positions people who have reached full retiring age and are well-pensioned, when there are so many management people in their forties and fifties who are unemployed.

From the point of view of talent, qualification and experience it cannot surely be necessary or desirable to employ the superannuated in this way; if it is then we are indeed a bankrupt nation because we are bankrupt of human resources. I do not believe it.

Mr. Tether made the point that "the net of recruitment is not cast very widely." This is very true. The question might be "What is the mechanism for casting it?" There doesn't seem to be one, not at any rate, that would take it beyond a party political pool, and that in a London park. This can only be dangerous to the effective development of our society and particularly when the party in power is, in fact, representative of only a minority of the constituents of that society. It is just as deplorable as the public school, family connection, who-knows-who system which has for so long prevailed in the City and on which it can scarcely be claimed to have been carved, particularly recently.

There is another point about party political appointments which I think needs to be brought out and thoroughly aired in public. This is the current and growing practice of appointing party political agents as

## Govan workers to seek assurances

CONCERNED at the order position at the Government-financed Govan shipyard, about 4,000 of the 5,300 work-force at the Govan yard and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Scotstoun Marine, yesterday agreed to a meeting with the Government next month.

The two yards close to-night for Christmas and New Year holidays and are due to reopen on Monday, January 5.

The Govan management says that it has 15 ships either on order or under construction, valued at approximately £100m., which should provide work until late 1977. But if no further orders are forthcoming, there could be a break in the continuity of production by the late summer of next year when the company would be forced to review the autumn situation.

This could lead to a "redundancy situation."

At yesterday's meeting, the workers unanimously decided that under no circumstances would they accept redundancies, not immediately critical, a situation in which there was not a order or under construction, valued at approximately £100m.,

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE  
MINISTRE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE L'ENERGIE

# SONATRACH

DIVISION ENGINEERING ET DEVELOPPEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS

An international call for tenders has been launched by Société Nationale SONATRACH, within its "Phosphate Fertilizers" programme, for the entire "turnkey" construction of two plants at TEBESSA and ANNABA.

- The TEBESSA plant will consist of :
  - Sulphuric acid production units having a capacity of approx. 1,600 tons/day.
  - A production unit for phosphoric acid having a capacity of 500 tons/day of P2 O5
  - Units for the concentrating of phosphoric acid
  - A granulation plant for the production of triple superphosphate (T.S.P.), having a capacity of 280,000 tons per year, together with all fittings, off-site infrastructure and ancillary installations.
- The ANNABA plant will consist of :
  - Sulphuric acid production units having a capacity of approx. 1,600 tons/day
  - A production unit for phosphoric acid having a capacity of 500 tons/day of P2 O5
  - Units for the concentrating of phosphoric acid
  - A production unit for diamonic phosphate (D.A.P.)
  - A production unit for monomonic phosphate (M.A.P.).

Companies wishing to tender, and with previous experience in this field, may obtain all necessary documents from :

SONATRACH  
DIVISION ENGINEERING ET DEVELOPPEMENT  
"PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS PROJECT"

9 rue Abou-Nouas — HYDRA — ALGIERS (Algeria)

as from the date of publication of this call for tenders.

Tenders should be sent separately for each Plant to SONATRACH, Attention: Monsieur le Vice-Président, Engineering et Développement, at the above address, under sealed double envelopes, marked :

- "Offre Commerciale pour le Complexe de TEBESSA—Ne pas ouvrir"
- "Commercial tender for the TEBESSA plant—Do not open"
- "Offre Commerciale pour le Complexe de ANNABA—Ne pas ouvrir"
- "Commercial tender for the ANNABA plant—Do not open"

before April 30, 1976.











## WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS

## Early drifting on evening-up moves

## Gold easier

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.

PRICES DRIFTED in slow trading on Wall Street today, following a year-end evening-up operations, including tax selling and also reinvestment.

By 1 p.m. the Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 1.10 at 837.33 but the NYSE AD COMBINED

Closing prices and market reports were not available for this edition.

Index was up 4 cents at 846.52, while advanced issues were only about 30 issues. Trading volume was 8.97m. shares, against 8.87m. at 1 p.m. yesterday.

News that the New York State Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of New York City's moratorium on debt payments, a crucial part of the City's rescue plan, was a positive influence.

But President Ford's signing of the Tax Cut Bill Congress passed on Friday could be somewhat bearish. Some investors had maintained lingering hopes that President Ford might hold out for "beefed-up" spending reduction provisions.

UAL advanced \$1 to \$25.15. United Air Lines unit said it will file with the Civil Aeronautics Board for a one per cent fare increase in the mainland.

Avon Products gained \$1 to \$33. Texas Instruments \$1 to \$93. Getty Oil \$1 to \$161. National Semiconductor \$1 to \$281. Digital Equipment \$1 to \$158. Burroughs \$1 to \$284. and Gardner-Wharfed \$1 to \$221.

Coca-Cola put on \$1 to \$36.25 and Du Pont \$1 to \$124.75. Timken gave up \$1 to \$36.25 and Schering Plough dipped \$1 to \$50.

Gold lost ground as the London gold price fell \$1.60 on the day. Resources slipped \$1 to \$20.50. Domestic Mines \$1 to \$20.50. Homebase Mining \$1 to \$33.50. Campbell Red Lake \$1 to \$19.50. and ASA \$1 to \$28.50.

General Motors moved up \$1 to \$37.10. Diamond Shamrock \$1 to \$30.10. Eastman Kodak \$1 to \$10.60. and Gardner-Wharfed \$1 to \$22.10.

Uch International declined \$1 to \$46.00 and Union Pacific \$1 to \$76.00.

The American SE Market Value Index was up 0.09 to 81.84, but declines outnumbered advances by 220 to 108. Trading volume was 1.24m. shares, compared with 1.11m. at 1 p.m. yesterday.

New England Nuclear rose \$2 to \$23.00 on third quarter earnings of \$4.33 cents per share.

Uch International declined \$1 to \$46.00 and Union Pacific \$1 to \$76.00.

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strongly at the start of the new Account. Although there were signs of hesitancy in Electricals, Metals, Oils and Chemicals.

In the Foreign sector, Americans Germans and Canadians firmed, while Dutch stocks, Oils and Chemicals were mixed. Profit-taking pushed Golds lower.

BRUSSELS—Small losses predominated in slow trading. Steels declined. Metals were mostly easier. Chemicals finished mixed. Holdings, Utilities and Electricals were narrowly irregular, while Oils were easier.

U.S. shares were mostly lower, South African Gold Mines easier, French shares lower while Dutch and German stocks firmed.

PARIS—Most sectors advanced

Among Golds, Dome Mines were off \$1 to \$36.25, while Dickenson

dropped \$1 to \$20.50. Bell Canada rose \$1 to \$32.00 following the award of higher rates by the Canadian Transport Commission.

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met the liveliest demand with EMV adding DM3, GBR DM7 and Mammesman DM3.50. Siemens

firmed DM4 and Dresdner Bank further advanced DM8.5.

Stores, however, were generally up to DM5 lower.

The Domestic Bond Market was quiet.

SWITZERLAND—Slightly firmer over a broad front in rather active Settlement Day trading.

Major Banks and Insurances were little changed, while Financials rallied. Industrials were firmer and Foods were particularly strong.

State Bonds were generally very steady to slightly higher.

Dollar stocks drifted lower in buoyant dealings. Dutch International generally edged higher, while Germans firmed.

MILAN—Generally lower in slack trading. Market is closed until next Monday.

HONG KONG—Prices advanced across the board in active trading.

Hong Kong Land were up 15 cents to \$38.50. Hutchison 3

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Gold fell \$1 to close at \$149.11, following a general lack of buying interest. It was felt in some quarters that the news that

France is prepared to buy part of the International Monetary Fund's

large stock is unlikely to have a

large short-term effect on the free

market, and that the previous rise

of \$3 may have been overdone.

The Kruggerand finished at \$42.14 (1975-76) for domestic

delivery. The coin's premium

over its gold content widened

slightly to 1.05 per cent. from

1.40 per cent. in the domestic

market, and narrowed to 3.31

per cent. from 2.46 per cent. in

international dealings.

The foreign exchange market

remained very quiet ahead of the

Christmas holiday and the end of

the year. The U.S. dollar tended

to move up and then lose ground

in thin and erratic movements.

The dollar made early gains

against the Swiss franc, improving

to Frs.624.00, compared with

Frs.624.00 on Monday night but

had eased to Frs.614.45 at the

close. The U.S. dollar's

weighted average depreciation

since the Washington Currency

Agreement, as calculated by

Morgan Guaranty of New York

on 100 parities, was 1.50

per cent. previously.

Sterling recorded little change

overall. Its trade-weighted

average depreciation since the

Washington Agreement, as

calculated by the Bank of England,

was unchanged at 30.2 per

cent. and remained at that level

throughout.

U.S. \$ in Montreal, U.S. \$ 101.42 Canadian cents.

Canadian \$ in New York 66.92 U.S. \$ 1.00.

Sterling in Milan 178.15. Rates for Dec. 23.

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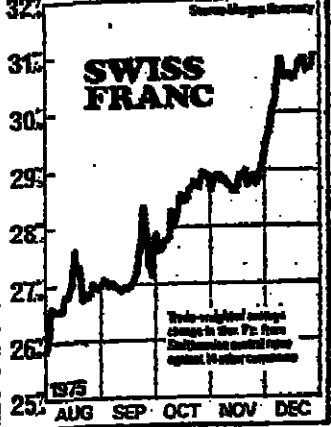
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## FARMING AND RAW MATERIALS

## Raw cotton supplies tightening

THE SOVIET UNION has withdrawn all offers of raw cotton and will probably remain out of the world market until the New Year, according to Liverpool Cotton Services, reports Reuters.

With lower than expected harvests in Asia, and Brazilian plantings well below original intentions, the supply of raw cotton to the world market has tightened further - although already squeezed quite considerably during the past two months.

The Soviet harvest is now running at a close and production has, as usual, exceeded its target, but by a much smaller margin than the trade had expected.

The USSR has a keen seller throughout the autumn and early winter, presumably to help finance heavy purchases of goods. But her recent price rises have risen strongly and all have now been withdrawn.

## Committed

In Asia, the Pakistan market authority has already committed virtually all its exportable surplus of "American" cottons and for some time has been out of the market pending a re-assessment of available supplies. No significant further sales of raw cotton are expected during the present season, Liverpool Cotton Services says.

In India, large supplies of old pressed heavily on interior markets at one stage, but since late weather has taken its toll in several producing areas, New Delhi has recently issued Mahatma's request for supplementary export quotas.

## SOYABEAN MEAL CHANGE

The Soyabean Meal Futures option in London said it changed the quality standards for soyabean meal to minimum 43 per cent protein, fat from 44 per cent and minimum 7.5 per cent oil, effective from December 22, for all contracts for delivery onward. Other typical requirements are unchanged.

## HARP FALL IN APESEED CROP

RONN, Dec. 23. The West German rapeseed crop fell 34 per cent this year, 98,000 tonnes from 301,000 year. Agriculture Ministry says, reports Reuters.

The winter rape harvest fell 81,000 tonnes from 285,300, while summer rape, and early summer rapeseed, fell 12 per cent, to 18,000 tonnes.

## EEC plan threatens U.K. Potato Marketing Board

BY ROBIN REEVES

THE EUROPEAN Commission today published plans for a common EEC potato regime and, in doing so, placed doubts over the future of Britain's Potato Marketing Board.

Unlike the U.K.'s present arrangements, which gives the Board the power to intervene in the market to support prices at a guaranteed level, the Common Market regime would be far more laissez-faire.

The only instruments of market support envisaged would be subsidies to encourage the storage of potatoes at times of surplus and low prices, aids for dehydrating surplus or their disposal as animal feed, and the granting of export rebates.

In addition, the draft scheme foresees a series of reference or

minimum import prices operating for certain months of the year in respect of supplies from non-EEC potato exporters.

Day-to-day market support operations would be decided at market level and be carried out by producer groups or co-operatives, which would also be charged with the task of improving potato production and marketing. EEC aid would be available for establishing such groups.

It is unclear, as yet, whether the Potato Marketing Board would, in practice, be able to operate one such producer group or co-operative. But even if this is the case, the Board would have to be reconstituted so as to lose its statutory status.

It would lose, also, of course, its power to control the national potato acreage and to protect producer prices by big programmes of intervention buying.

It will be ironic if Mr. Fred Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, decides to defend the Potato Board's existing status and market powers in the face of this threat from Brussels - given his present hardline stance against adopting the Common Market intervention system for beef.

On the other hand, he can reasonably argue that potatoes are not the same. They do not immediately lose anything by being stockpiled, provided it is done properly, whereas beef loses significantly in value by being frozen.

## Sugar market poised to reopen

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE PARIS sugar futures market is now poised to reopen the last week of January - some 16 months after a speculative collapse forced an ignominious halt to trading on December 2 last year.

The way was cleared for a restart in dealings in white (or refined) sugar after protracted negotiations culminating in agreement at dawn last Saturday when all 60-odd parties concerned finally accepted the compromise proposals worked out by a senior Paris lawyer M. Jacques Pesson.

The cornerstone of his scheme was "a general settlement" of outstanding contracts at the moment of the market's breakdown on the basis of Fr.6,617

per tonne, Fr.200 below the then forward position of March, 1975. Although the package was accepted by most of the community here, including brokers, the industry and the deeply involved London trade, a few operators still held out for better terms.

Now, however, their objections have been overcome and the date of January 26, 1976 has been provisionally pencilled in for the birth of a revamped market. Accordingly, all pending lawsuits have been dropped, and the bulk of the Fr.200m. needed to tie up the deal will be raised by the liquidation of the former regulatory agency, the Caisse de Liquidation (CLAM), and the sale of its assets.

PARIS, Dec. 23.

It is this last condition which alone is delaying a reopening. An extraordinary meeting of CLAM shareholders has to approve the arrangements.

This now looks a mere formality following the essential take-over bid launched for the CLAM by Sina, a subsidiary of Credit Lyonnais, the State-owned bank, ten days ago.

It now remains to be seen whether Paris can recapture its former glory as the unchallenged world centre for white sugar trading, or whether the events of last December has signed not only the sugar market's death warrant but that of the city itself as a major commodity centre.

## Cocoa shrugs off tight supply forecast

BY RICHARD MOONEY

LONDON COCOA futures prices finished only marginally higher yesterday despite the publication of a Gill and Duffus market report which indicated a continuing tightness of supplies in the coming year.

The report puts the surplus of production over consumption in 1975-76 at only 24,000 tonnes, well below earlier forecasts of next year's surplus. Last year the surplus was 126,000 tonnes.

Values on the London terminal market opened quite strongly on the morning of Monday, but the rise was not followed through and the March position ended 13.25 higher at £730.5 a tonne.

after reaching £735.5 at one stage.

The muted reaction to the Gill and Duffus report was widely attributed to sentiment aided by an earlier supply position in the nearby months. It was also suggested that the contents of the report may have been known in the U.S. on Monday night and therefore already discounted in the opening price.

In addition, some London dealers raised doubts about its forecast for next year's world consumption. In particular, they questioned the prediction of higher grindings figures in the U.K., the Soviet Union and producing countries.

Gill and Duffus estimates world grindings in 1976 at 3.5 million tonnes, 4.8 per cent above this year's estimated total but notes that the continuing trend towards processing of cocoa at origin "renders grindings figures ever less reliable as a measure of consumption".

Cocoa production in the 1975-1976 season is put at 1,521,000 tonnes, which compares with 1,548,000 tonnes in 1974-75. The predicted decline is mainly due to reduced crop expectations in Brazil and Ivory Coast, which together with reductions in some minor producing countries, more than outweigh substantial forecast rises in Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon.

## U.S. winter wheat output fall likely

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.

THE U.S. Department of Agriculture has predicted the winter wheat crop at 1,490m. bushels, 9 per cent below last year's record 1,631m.

In its initial estimate of the crop, the USDA said the predicted fall is likely despite the planting of 57.2m. acres, second only to the 61.2m. acres in 1949, against 56.2m. in 1974.

The fall in winter wheat output will be offset by larger stocks of old-crop wheat expected to be left when the season ends at its new completion date next May 31, the USDA said.

In a separate report the USDA noted that despite the much larger than expected shortfall in Soviet grain production this year, world grain stocks next summer will not be quite as small as anticipated about six weeks ago.

Much of the downward revision in Soviet output would be offset by a decline in its consumption and a reduction in stocks.

Japan wants to keep copper import cuts

TOKYO, Dec. 23.

JAPANESE COPPER smelters are negotiating with overseas suppliers for a continued 15 per cent cut in their exports to Japan of copper ore and concentrates in 1976, industry sources told Reuters.

The Furukawa Company said Japanese imports of copper ore and concentrates in 1975 totalled an estimated 680,000 tonnes, a cut of 120,000 tonnes or 15 per cent from the contracted 800,000 tonnes.

In view of electrolytic copper stocks of about 200,000 tonnes in Japan, the smelters are asking overseas suppliers to continue their current cut in exports to Japan, the company said.

Japanese smelters are meanwhile seeking loans totalling an estimated 72,000 tonnes from leading trade firms, on the security of electrolytic copper, to tide them over the current slump in the copper market, Reuters.

## GAME SHOOTING

## Few partridges in the pear trees

BY JOHN CHERRINGTON, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE OLD game laws which, according to legend, were responsible for the deportation of many an otherwise honest man to Australia for killing a rabbit, are now being repealed.

It is not that trespassing in search of game is an offence, no one would bother to preserve it, and the situation would be like that in France, for instance, where almost every one can carry a gun on Sunday and shoot, except thrushes and larks.

I did not always look with approval on the preservation of game. In pre-war days as a tenant farmer, I used to wish my landlord's favoured tenants enjoying shooting the game I had fed from my crops with considerable envy.

Instinct

I was allowed to shoot ground game, hares and rabbits, and while it is always possible to mistake a low flying pheasant or partridge for a rabbit, few came my way until I managed to buy a small farm of my own and could, with a game licence, shoot at my leisure.

It is possible to encourage this wandering instinct. In the bad old days country chemists used to supply a good line in aniseed and other potions with which to steep

a little grain. This would be fed in strategic places, and any wandering birds that came across it would be tempted to stay.

Of course the neighbouring keepers were up to these tricks, and used the same methods to keep the birds at home. In fact there is even now a good deal of covert warfare between neighbouring shoots, with fields of kale and other attractive crops planted in places which are called more with a view to game attraction than strict agricultural efficiency.

I have now become respectable, and even have a few birds reared which promptly run off to my neighbours, which is probably deserved retribution for my sins. I do my best to encourage the wild birds to nest and rear their young.

Foxhunters will dispute this, but the biggest threat to the wild pheasant is the fox. Magpies and crows cause damage but only a fox will run up a hedge and drag the hen pheasant off her nest. Only foxes too will kill adult pheasants.

Twenty years ago there were a lot of foxes around and few pheasants. Now there are very few foxes indeed and there is quite a stock of birds every year.

I wish I could say the same for partridges. But the sad truth is that there is practically none. Although not one has been shot for several years, their numbers do not increase at all.

There have been many suggestions as to why this should be. The culprit is probably modern farming and an excess of pesticides. There is no doubt that the weed-free crops we grow these days are a poor habitat for the partridge.

Also most stubbles are now burnt or ploughed in as soon as harvest is over; previously they were left until late in the winter. Partridges don't like

wet arable land, and in any case these cultivations destroy the weed seeds on which they feed. It is also certain that the pheasant, like the hen, is a much more thorough forager.

The popularity of shooting over the last 20 years has meant an enormous increase in pheasant populations. The pheasant, like the hen, is very easy to rear artificially and handle afterwards. Anyone with a farm, or even a kitchen garden, can rear it into some sort of a short regardless of whether the environment is naturally suited to pheasants or not.

The pheasant is a big bird and easier to shoot on the wing than a partridge, which is much harder to rear and handle afterwards. Most shoots are expensive to run, and their owners like to see results in plenty of birds over the guns, and that means pheasants to the virtual exclusion of other game.

Preservation

It can be, and often is, argued that game preservation is a waste of resources, and only the interests of game preservation that is really necessary for the survival of the game. It is also, like any blind sport, a cruel way of ending a creature's life for pleasure. If pheasants were reared in captivity, they could be caught easily and painlessly killed.

In spite of this I do enjoy the occasional day's shooting, and the moral questions which I confess have only surfaced as my aim has deteriorated, don't concern me much. Perhaps they will in time.

## Gradual firming in wool prices seen

SYDNEY, Dec. 23.

Latest available AWC figures show it brought in 26.1 per cent of the offering at auction in the season to December 13 compared with 44.3 per cent in the first half of the 1974-75 season.

Mr. Vines said wool was holding its place in the fibre market, especially in Europe.

He said one indicator confirming this mildly "bullish" view was that distant months are holding firm on the Sydney greasy wool futures exchange.

He expected the Australian Wool Corporation (AWC) to sell more wool in the second half than it will need to buy.

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## BASE METALS

BASE METALS. Lack of follow through in the recent buying then caused prices to drift under modern processing and forward market raising prices. Physical business in the U.S. to close at 12.15 on the afternoon Kert before closing at 12.15. Turnover 14,500 tonnes.

Commodity	Unit	Price
Aluminium	lb	579.5-80
Copper	lb	579.5-80
Lead	lb	579.5-80
Nickel	lb	579.5-80
Silver	lb	579.5-80
Zinc	lb	579.5-80

## LUBS

LUBS. To get the big contracts as of Jan. 1, 1976, the market is in a friendly way and our prices are low. No immediate requirements. 234 100% delivered. 340 100% delivered. 340 100% delivered.

## ART GALLERIES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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### HOTELS—Continued

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

42	10	Ferdinand	39	79	76-0-80	121.1	2.6
43	10	Ferdinand A.R.	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
44	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
45	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
46	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
47	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
48	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
49	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
50	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
51	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
52	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
53	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
54	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
55	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
56	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
57	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
58	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
59	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
60	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
61	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
62	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
63	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
64	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
65	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
66	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
67	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
68	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
69	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
70	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
71	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
72	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
73	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
74	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
75	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
76	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
77	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
78	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
79	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
80	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
81	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
82	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
83	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
84	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
85	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
86	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
87	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
88	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
89	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
90	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
91	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
92	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
93	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
94	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
95	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
96	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
97	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
98	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
99	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7
100	10	Ferdinand	1	79	1-45	22.1	11.7

[illegible]

10/21/19







